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AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	37
Leading Articles:—	
Railways in China	38
The New Ordinance and the Housing Question	38
Russia's Position	39
Hongkong and other Observatories	39
Arms-Smuggling into China	39
"Confucianist Christians"	41
Hongkong Sanitary Board	41
Kwangsi Famine Relief	41
Chinese and the Ordinance	42
The New Street Tramway	43
Robberies in Hongkong	43
Opium-Making in Hongkong	43
Notes from the Botanic Gardens	44
The Tientsin Siding Dispute	44
Arm-Smuggling into China	44
The Kwangsi Troubles	44
A Canton Kidnapping Tale	45
Canton	45
Pakhoi	45
Correspondence	45
Supreme Court	45
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.	46
China Light and Power Co., Ltd.	47
New Amoy Dock Co., Ltd.	47
Tebrau Planting Co., Ltd.	47
Royal Hongkong Golf Club	47
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce	48
Hongkong	48
Miscellaneous	49
Commercial	49
Shipping	52

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The plague cases in the Colony since the 1st January numbered at noon yesterday 1,347.

The U. S. warships *A. Bang*, *Cincinnati* and *Raleigh* are expected at Singapore from Colombo on their way to the China station.

It is now stated that the Cabinet crisis in Japan was due to the interference of the "Elder Statesmen," who hampered the Ministry's action without sharing its responsibility.

On the 13th July, Marquis Ito was appointed President of the Privy Council of Japan, thereby abandoning the leadership of the *Seiyukai*. The Katsura Cabinet remains in office, and the crisis is over.

Bangkok papers congratulate Mr. Tower on his transfer from Bangkok to Munich and Stuttgart as British Minister-Resident to Bavaria and Wurtemberg, which was announced in Reuter's telegrams to the Siamese capital.

The Japanese training fleet, which was last reported at Thursday Island, is going direct from Manila to Chemulpo, avoiding South China ports on account of plague. The squadron is due at Yokosuka at the end of August.

The *Universal Gazette* is informed that the Directors of the Chekiang Bureau of Mines have engaged a French and an Italian engineer at a salary of a thousand dollars per month each to prospect on their behalf the mining regions in Chuchow, Yenchow, Wenchow, and Taichow.

The *China Times* says that immense quantities of coal are being hurried to Newchwang and Port Arthur.—The same paper also states that parties of Russians and Japanese are confronting each other at Jehol, where the Japanese have acquired a tract of land cutting clean across the proposed Russian railway route.

Some uneasiness is said by home papers to be felt in German official circles at the steady increase in the Russian naval forces in the Far East, and in what are regarded as the growing signs of serious complications in Chinese waters. The German Government has resolved, therefore, to reinforce its East Asiatic fleet by the addition of several of the finest ships of the Navy.

Mr. Hamilton King is now Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at the Court of Bangkok. Mr. Tower's appointment having lapsed, Mr. Hamilton King is now the only Minister Plenipotentiary in the diplomatic corps at Bangkok, that is to say resident in Bangkok. The Ministers of Austria, Hungary, Belgium, and Portugal accredited to Siam are also Ministers Plenipotentiary, but they do not reside in Siam.

We hear on excellent authority that the latest local observations have resulted in the discovery of the transmissibility of the plague bacillus by cockroaches. This, as will readily be seen, has an important bearing on the question as to what part the contamination of food plays in the spread of the scourge. Incidentally, also, it tends to redeem the character of the rat, as it is now shown that so many other living things are capable of conveying plague.

The new Siamese Minister to London is to be Phya Raja Nuprabandh, present Siamese Minister to Tokyo, who is a popular diplomatic representative in Japan.

Li Do-sai, the Korean Minister for Foreign Affairs, has for the fifth time tendered his resignation to the Emperor. It is believed that a change of Ministers will affect the scheme for the opening of Wiju, as Li Do-sai was a warm supporter of the project. We saw that a Seoul telegram to the *Kokumin* states that Mr. Jordan, British Minister in Seoul, had received instructions from the British Government that he should advise the Korean Government to open Wiju to the trade of the world.

A Peking despatch of the 3rd inst. to Shanghai states that a couple of days before that date a band of some two hundred well-armed mounted robbers made a sudden raid upon the Empress Dowager's favourite Palace at Eho Park, took the guards left there by surprise and carried off a quantity of plunder before anything could be done to stop them. The robbers, it is reported, retreated afterwards towards the Southern Hunting Park. Viceroy Yuan and General Ma Yü-k'un have sent troops to go after the bandits.

The Chinese native journal *Supao* at Shanghai has been suppressed at the instance of the local Chinese mandarins, the offices being sealed up on the 7th inst. But it seems that another paper named the *Kuo Min Jih Pao*, or "National Daily Paper," has been established, as a continuation of the *Supao*. The trial of five men accused of "sedition" began in the Mixed Court, Shanghai, on the 15th inst., before Mr. Sun, Mixed Court Magistrate, and Mr. Giles, British Assessor. After the charges had been formulated the case was adjourned until Tuesday next.

The *N. C. Daily News* Tokyo correspondent telegraphs the following news about Corea, under date the 8th inst.:—The Russians have said a telegraphic cable between Antung, on the north side, and Yong Ampho, on the south side of the mouth of the Yalu river, without consulting Corea, whereat Japan has protested, inasmuch as Corea is bound by convention not to allow any foreign Power any telegraphic privileges which interfere with Japanese vested interests. Japan is pressing for the opening of Wiju to foreign trade. On Corea's pleading the objection of Russia, Japan has replied that any such objection is entirely irrelevant, inasmuch as the power of decision is vested solely in Corea.

On the completion next September of the term of Rear Admiral Harry T. Grenfell, second in command on the China Station, he will be succeeded by Rear Admiral the Hon. Assheton G. Curzon-Howe, who last month hauled down his flag as second in command of the Channel Fleet. Admiral Grenfell's flag is flying on the *Albatross*, but it is reported that Admiral Curzon-Howe's flagship is to be the *Leviathan*, first-class armoured cruiser, which was commissioned at Portsmouth on the 16th ult. by Captain the Hon. Walter G. St. John, to replace the *Argonaut*. The China Squadron is to be reinforced by the transfer of the *Vengeance*, a first-class battleship, Captain Leslie C. Stuart, from the Mediterranean Station. She was commissioned at Portsmouth in April last.

BIRTHS.

On the 26th June, at Taipeng, F.M.S., the wife of E. R. SALISBURY, of a son.

On the 3rd July, at Kuala Lumpur, F.M.S., the wife of H. L. TALBOT, Commissioner of Police, F.M.S., of a daughter.

On the 3rd July, at the Homestead, Northam Road, Penang, Mrs. THOMAS GAWTHORNE, of a daughter.

On the 5th July, at No. 30, Haskell Road, Shanghai, the wife of C. J. WHITE, of a daughter.

On the 10th July, at the Occidental Hotel, Elgin Road, Kowloon, the wife of JEWELLER H. RUTONJEE, of a son.

On the 16th July, at Weihaiwei, the wife of LEWIS WALL, R.N., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 7th July, at Manila, by the Rt. Rev. C. H. Brent, D.D., Bishop of the Philippines, ARTHUR WILLIAM OUTERBRIDGE to JESSIE HALLIDAY WOODWARD.

On the 16th July, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, M.A., CAR LINE ELLERT, widow of the late F. ELLERT, of Shanghai, to ALFRED D. S. POWELL, of the L.M. Customs.

DEATHS.

On the 5th July, at 1, Sophia Road, Singapore, Mrs. L. BURKE (nee HAZLEWOOD), aged 63 years.

On the 9th July, at the Peak Hospital, C. F. E. MANICUS, of Amoy, aged 43 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 12th ult., arrived by the M. M. steamer *Yara* on the 14th inst., (32 days); the American mail of the 19th ult., arrived by the s.s. *Korea* on the 16th inst., (27 days); and the English mail of the 19th ult., arrived per P. & O. steamer *Bengal* on the 17th inst., (28 days).

RAILWAYS IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 15th July.)

It is possible from the mail papers received yesterday to see one reason at least for Lord LANSDOWNE's notable statement in the House of Lords on the 16th ultimo, that Great Britain has serious cause for complaint at the manner in which China has dealt with applications for railway concessions and that he would be obliged to remonstrate strongly. In another column to-day will be found a telegram sent to the *Times* on the 8th June by Dr. MORRISON, the famous Peking correspondent. Dr. MORRISON therein points out what the Russians, Germans, and Belgians are doing in the matter of railway enterprise in North and Central China. He might have added some remarks about French schemes in the South, but his case is strong enough as it stands. His point is that even in the Yangtze region—once proudly styled the "British sphere of influence"—British railway prospects are at present materially worse than ever before. Russia has the concession of the Chingting-fu and Taiyuen-fu line; Germany two important extensions of the Shantung railway system; and Belgium the Kaifeng-fu and Honan city line. To quote Dr. MORRISON's words:—"Compared with these successes, the British position is not encouraging. The Pekin Syndicate have nearly completed 90 miles of railway from their coal measures in Honan province to the Wei river, a waterway navigable for shallow draught junks to Tientsin, where they hope to find a market. The British and Chinese Corporation and the Pekin Syndicate recently applied conjointly for a railway concession from Sinyang, on the main line from Peking to Hankow, along the Han river valley, Siangyang, and across to Chengtu-fu, the capital of Szechuen. China replied that a native capitalist had already asked for this concession. The British responded that if it were built with Chinese money they could make no objection, but should China require foreign capital for its construction preference should be given to them as first in the field. The Chinese have not replied, and there the matter stands. Nothing has been said regarding terms or any details." Again, the British and Chinese Corporation obtained in 1898 a concession for a railway from Pukow opposite Nanking, to Sinyang; but no attempt has yet been made to utilise the concession. SIRENG recently gave notice that unless the corporation, within six months, carried out the terms of the preliminary contract, the concession would be cancelled. Yet again the Pekin Syndicate claim the right to build a railway from the Shansi mines to Pukow; but the claim meets with strong opposition from France on the ground that the line will divert traffic from the Peking-Hankow main line, and that if the right is given to the British an indemnity must be paid to the Franco-Belgian syndicate financing the main line. Is it then to be wondered at that Dr. MORRISON claims that British railway prospects, even in the Yangtze region, are materially worse than ever before? The Shansi coal concessions obtained by the Pekin Syndicates are denied an outlet to the Yangtze, without which they are valueless. The *Times* correspondent concludes his despatch with the remarks that perhaps it is necessary to remind the British Government that a despatch from Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD of the 4th September, 1898, informed Lord SALISBURY that the Tsungli Yamen had in an interview of the previous day consented that the Pekin Syndicate should construct

a railway from their mines to the Yangtze on terms not inferior to those granted to other railways; while in a despatch from Prince CHING to Sir ERNEST SATOW of the 24th April, 1902, Prince CHING explicitly re-affirmed the right of the Syndicate to connect the mines with the Yangtze. It is only natural that the question should be asked what is the value of these promises. An answer to this will be looked for when Sir ERNEST SATOW returns to China. From Lord LANSDOWNE's speech on the 16th ultimo we know that the British Minister has full instructions to support energetically the views of the Government—which are, as stated by Lord LANSDOWNE, that Great Britain has serious cause for complaint over the treatment of British applications for railway concessions. Therefore the return to Peking of Sir ERNEST SATOW will be anxiously awaited, in the hope that the undoubted grievances of which Dr. MORRISON complains so strongly may be remedied.

THE NEW ORDINANCE AND THE HOUSING QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 17th July.)

Hongkong is at present confronted with the most serious question which can face any large and rapidly growing community, that of the housing accommodation of its workers and their families. We publish to-day a translation of a leading article which appeared yesterday morning in the *Chung Ngai San Po* and which has already attracted a great deal of attention among our Chinese fellow-residents. The article speaks for itself. It is a powerful appeal on behalf of the almost innumerable Chinese families on whom the provisions of the new Ordinance must weigh extremely heavily. If any confirmation of the principal statements made therein be required we need only refer to that memorandum of Dr. PEARSE, Acting Medical Officer of Health, which was published on the 3rd instant. The case is there put more dispassionately than in our Chinese contemporary's article, but its strength can none the more be disregarded. If any one fact stands out clearly after a perusal of these two documents, it is that no mere abolition of cubicles will solve the question how to secure increased health and sanitation in this Colony. Now we have always warmly advocated all reasonable measures directed against overcrowding among our working classes, and particularly against that overcrowding which flourishes in windowless cubicles. From this kind of overcrowding we are convinced comes the virulence and regularity of our plague epidemics. Any one doubting this should refresh his memory by reading again Dr. F. W. CLARK's Medical Report for 1902, where the relation between surface-crowding and plague is fully discussed. It is hardly necessary to refer to Bombay and other Indian cities for confirmation of the views expressed. While we have our Chinese population huddled together without air or light in too small a space for their number, so long shall we have to fight a hopeless battle against plague, the worst enemy of the Colony's prosperity.

What then is the situation? We have, on the one hand, a teeming population of Chinese cooped up in insanitary buildings, without sufficient light or air, and by their existence in such a condition menacing the health and lives of themselves and of the European and other non-Chinese residents of Hongkong, as well as vitally damaging the Colony's commerce. We have, on the other, the pitiable Chinese appeal that the working people must have some place in

which they can dwell in decency with their families. Or, more shortly, we may put it thus:—A continuance of airless cubicles and overcrowding means death and heavy loss; an immediate enforcement of the regulations against that continuance means intolerable hardships for the poorer Chinese and possibly the driving out of their families. We do not know that there exist in Hongkong sufficient available homes for the population which must be displaced in the attempt to give enough living room and light to the poorer part of the community. On the 27th November last H.E. the Governor, in the concluding speech of an extremely interesting debate on the second reading of the Public Health and Building Bill, said:—"A very large question that has been brought forward is the question of what is to be done with the large number of people who must be displaced by the operation of the Ordinance. I quite agree with that. But then, on the other hand, the Ordinance is not going to act at a moment's notice. Action must necessarily be slow, and the broad question will present itself to us whether it is better that we should suddenly undertake a large measure of socialist legislation by the Government entering with the public money into competition with those whose business it is to build and supply houses for the accommodation of the people, or whether we should leave that to the ordinary operation of commercial principles; and my own view is that it is better to leave it to the ordinary operation, especially here in Hongkong, where there are societies and individuals who have money and are quite ready to supply it when they find that the public require it." Now, however slow the working of the Ordinance, it has already begun to touch the needy Chinese, and must do so increasingly. In the meantime, do we find that Sir HENRY BLAKE's confidence in the "ordinary operations," quoted above, justified? Are there springing up a sufficient number of new houses ready for occupation by the people on the point of being displaced from their present unhealthy surroundings? The new tramways are progressing rapidly; are the suburbs arising at their further ends? His Excellency, it seems to us, made an unfair use of the odium attaching to the word "socialist" in conservative minds when, in the speech we have quoted he spoke of "undertaking a large measure of socialist legislation by the Government entering with the public money into competition" with the owners and builders. We may well ask the question, whether it is more worthy of the Government to pour out vast sums of money yearly in the fight against plague, or to run the risk (if such exists) of being called "socialist" by providing a certain number of model dwellings for the displaced workers and their families. There is little essential difference, after all, between providing segregation-blocks for plague contacts and providing blocks for those whom the plague is more than likely to affect next year. The terror of the name of socialism cannot surely be so oppressive to men of commonsense.

The marriage took place at Manila on the 7th inst. of Capt. A. W. Unterbridge, of the C.N. s.s. *Sungkiang*, to Miss Jessie Halliday Woodward, of the nursing staff of Corregidor Island Hospital. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Brent, D.D., performed the ceremony at his residence. Later, a numerous party sat down at the festive board on the *Sungkiang*. The happy couple arrived here on the 11th inst.

RUSSIA'S POSITION.

(Daily Press, 14th July.)

Although we are by no means disposed to endorse the opinion of a contemporary, telegraphed a few days ago, that Russia is on the point of a dilemma, and has only the alternatives left of a perilous defiance of the Powers or an inglorious surrender, Russian statesmen can by no process of reasoning free themselves from the imputation that they have by their recent acts brought the Empire of the Tsar, both internally and externally, within a measurable distance of dissolution. Russia has, in fact, been playing a gam of bluff all round, and now that her hand has been called finds that her weakness has become so apparent that it has excited the ridicule rather than the admiration of all onlookers at the game. It was with some regret at the necessity of showing something, we may be sure, that she made a display of fifty-seven pennants the other day in the gulf of Pechili; it is noteworthy that neither Great Britain nor Japan has thought it worth while to make any response, and Mr. ARNOLD FOSTER's answer to a question in the House that the Admiralty was not aware of any special gathering, is probably the best evidence of how little she has gained by the move. But it is not alone in Asia that the high game has proved a failure; the attempted extinction of Finland and the massacre of the Jews at Kishineff have both proved to have been the outcome of craven fear, and the expulsion of the *Times* correspondent from St. Petersburg has only added its ludicrous aspect to the silly panic which is at bottom the mainspring of Russia's recent policy. Still as we have several times of late had to point out, this by no means removes the danger to peace. In all ages of the world panic has been the fruitful mother of disorder, and the madman is never to be so much avoided as when the demon of fear has got hold of him. If the past teachings of history are of any account towards forecasting the future, Russia as a nation has committed all the crimes and all the follies which mark the last stage of a despot's existence. True at the last moment it has more than once happened that an able and virtuous ruler has recovered his country on the very brink of ruin, and restored the prestige she in better days had attained to. Unfortunately Russia has not even this hope left; her Tsar is probably amiable, and perhaps is possessed with the very best intentions, in such a case assuredly the very worst possession a ruler could be cursed with. We know he is in his private life gloomy and superstitious. Even now the curse of a disputed succession, which from the beginning of history has been the bane of Oriental monarchies, hangs about his neck. At the one side these unhappy forebodings have made him a willing tool of the machinations of the priesthood, while on the other it is no secret that he has been meddling in the last resort of the unstable-minded, and endeavouring to obtain the aid of the powers of spiritualism. It is no wonder, then, that the powerful bureaucracy, which in the absence of a controlling mind has at all times been the curse of Russia, finding no obstacle in its way, has gone on from one folly to another, and now finds that not only has it aroused the latent hatred of its own people, but has succeeded in alienating, if not all the foreign Powers, certainly all those to whom Russia could look for counsel and help in the hour of need. As, however, we said, herein lies the greatest danger of all; the timid deer, who will fly from his own shadow, under the inspiration of despair is apt to

prove a more dangerous foe than the most redoubtable of the beasts of prey; and Russia driven to despair may before she goes under inflict the most irreparable damage not only on herself but upon civilisation itself. So long as the House of JENGHIZ Khan was a world power civilisation could afford to exist; it was not till the internecine wars of the descendants of the great JENGHIZ led to the decay of the *morale* of the House, that the worst effects of the invasion were seen. Had there been no JENGHIZ Khan, in all probability there would have been no Russia. The cruelties of his descendants afforded the first opportunity to the RAMANOVs to found the first Empire of Russia; but unfortunately his lust of empire is the only one of his characteristics which has descended to his successors.

HONGKONG AND OTHER OBSERVATORIES.

(Daily Press, 13th July.)

In the second part of the report of the Director of the Philippine Weather Bureau, recently published at the Bureau of Public Printing, Manila, may be found some remarks on the relations between the observatories of Hongkong and Manila which seem to call for attention. The report gives a history of the beginnings of the Philippine Meteorological Service, its development, and its establishment of relations with the other services in the Far East. It goes on to deal particularly with the attitude of Hongkong Observatory and makes some curious reflections on the conduct of Mr. W. DOBERCK, Director of our local institution. Referring to Mr. DOBERCK's memorial addressed to the Colonial Secretary here in 1883 concerning the ports and lighthouse stations along the China coast and the neighbouring islands, the Manila report says:— "On reading the whole memorial one can hardly resist the impression that Mr. DOBERCK attributes too much importance to himself in meteorological matters. Later on, he published some meteorological instructions which were to be followed by all the observers of the China coast, and it caused the Rev. P. M. DECHEVRENS, S.J., director of the Observatory of Sicawei, no little amusement, when Mr. W. DOBERCK wished to make him conform to them, just as though that centre depended by some natural right on the said gentleman." In November, 1883, Mr. DOBERCK was appointed Director of the Hongkong Observatory; and the Manila report complains of the "animosity which he clearly showed on various occasions later on" against the directors of the Manila and Sicawei meteorological centres. "Daily observations and storm-warnings were exchanged from the very beginning between the observatories of Manila and Hongkong. But, for some inexplicable reason, Mr. DOBERCK on repeated occasions kept back our telegrams without using them or giving them out to the public, even at times to the detriment of navigation. This gave rise to complaints on many sides from those interested, with the result that in future the warnings were sent simultaneously to Mr. DOBERCK and to the Spanish Consul, the latter official sending them immediately to the local press for publication. Nevertheless, Mr. DOBERCK's letters to Fr. FAURA were written in friendly terms up to 1887, at which time he spoke openly against the Manila Observatory on the occasion of the warnings sent out by it concerning

"the typhoon of September 19 and 11 of the same year. From that time on, relations were less friendly, until the year 1898, when they were completely broken." From a consideration of the correspondence which commenced with a letter addressed to us by a writer signing himself "Master Mariner" in April, 1902, and proceeded afterwards between the local Chamber of Commerce, the Hongkong Government, various Hongkong firms, Sicawei Observatory, a number of captains of steamers running to this port, etc. [vide report of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce for 1902], it is impossible to resist the conclusion that the Hongkong Observatory is also out of sympathy with that of Sicawei, and this is, as the Secretary of the Chamber says in a letter of the 24th September last, more or less a reproach to this Colony. It was objected on behalf of the Observatory that, "like every other scientific institution of the kind," it declined to accept the responsibility of using the forecasts of other institutions [Colonial Secretary's letter of the 10th September to the Chamber of Commerce]. But the report of the Sub-committee of the Chamber re Storm Warnings effectually disposed of this objection by suggesting that, when offered, weather forecasts should be received from other observatories and published as such; all such information would be welcomed by shipmasters and there would not be any necessity for the local Observatory to accept any responsibility in respect to the correctness of the forecast. We must confess to being unable to understand the policy of the Hongkong Observatory, as initiated and still continued by Mr. DOBERCK. Mariners travelling between this and neighbouring ports are dissatisfied with the meteorological information given out here; and the two most prominent observatories in the neighbourhood complain of the lack of courtesy shown them by Hongkong. There may be some explanation forthcoming. But we cannot find one in the long correspondence now for the first time collected together in the appendices to the report of our Chamber of Commerce. Nothing apparently has been gained by the attitude of the local Director of the Observatory, while Hongkong, in one particular direction, is suffering from a bad reputation on the ground both of efficiency and of manners.

ARMS-SMUGGLING INTO CHINA.

(Daily Press, 16th July.)

Accusations have been rife of late among certain of the Powers of connivance at the smuggling of arms into China. The importation of arms into that Empire has been totally forbidden, as is well known, since the events of 1900. But it is equally well known that illicit gun-running has flourished exceedingly ever since the prohibition. The forbiddance of the importation of fire-arms naturally puts a very heavy premium on such weapons, and it has always been found that unscrupulous traders are willing to take the utmost risks for the sake of the larger profit to be gained. In most of Britain's recent wars it has been found that European firms (possibly even British firms, it has been suspected) have done a lucrative business in the importation of munitions of war to the enemy's country. The Americans in the Philippines had a similar experience. In China, since the Powers agreed not to permit any more firearms to be imported, it is a matter of common knowledge that vast quantities of the forbidden merchandise have been smuggled in. Important seizures

have from time to time been made, as at Canton last China New Year, but still the practice goes on briskly. It must be admitted that it is very difficult for the various Governments concerned to deal with the question satisfactorily. Weapons disguised as biscuits, canned goods, etc., have an excellent chance of getting through. In South Africa guns even got through in pianos! As long as the pecuniary temptation is sufficiently high there will be found individuals and firms willing to take all the risks of arms-smuggling. Now it does not seem that China as an empire is gaining advantage from this illicit importation of arms. It was, it is true, freely stated as early as 1901 that great quantities of munitions of war were pouring into China; but the accusation lacked substantiation. On the other hand, it has for years been notorious that the brigands, or rebels, whichever we call them, in Kwangsi and its neighbourhood have been armed with weapons of more modern make than those borne by the Imperial troops. In turn the charge has been made that these arms have been smuggled across the Franco-Chinese frontier, through Macao, and through Hongkong. It can hardly be doubted that all three routes have been tried. Yet it cannot justly be said that the authorities have shown laxity. The situation is a difficult one. The prizes to be gained seem in the minds of the smugglers to exceed the dangers involved; and apart from increasing the penalties upon those convicted of smuggling we cannot suggest what course the European Governments can take.

CONFUCIANIST CHRISTIANS.

(Daily Press, 10th July.)

A rather strange story reaches us through Pakhoi, which in spite of its strangeness has the appearance of truth. It seems that in a certain place not far inland from Pakhoi some villagers had a legal affair pending about which they felt no little anxiety. Not being entirely unsophisticated, they thought it would be well to try to court European sympathy. They therefore went to the nearest Roman Catholic priest and offered to be converted in a hall if he would take up their cause. To his credit, the priest refused. The villagers then proceeded to a Protestant mission, offering the same terms. Again refusal met them. It might have been expected that they would have been brought to an end of their resources now; but it was not so. According to our information, they made up their minds that their only course was to start a new sect, and accordingly they announced themselves as the "Confucianist Christians," attempting a judicious blend between Eastern and Western ideas. We have not heard whether the sequel was a success in their legal affairs, but the story is interesting as illustrative of the way in which some Chinese regard the European missions and the material advantages of any form of Christianity.

The sycee "shoes" of the Board of Revenue at Peking were of course melted to a great extent by the heat of the recent fire, and when the vault was unearthed the silver was found in great masses, but the value was intact. The silver was sent to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

The *Strait Times* has heard on very reliable authority that the bids for the Opium and Spirit Farms have, in one instance at any rate, reached a figure exceeding \$5,000,000 per annum, and indeed approaching \$500,000 per month. The present holders pay but \$263,000 per month.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 16th inst. in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, P.C.M.O. (President), presided, and there were also present Hon. W. Chatham, D. P. W. (Vice-President); Mr. C. McL. Messer, Acting Registrar-General; Captain F. W. Lyons, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Colonel W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C.; Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak; Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Mr. A. Rumjahn, Mr. E. A. Hewett, Dr. W. W. Pearce, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Barnett, Assistant M.O.H.; and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

THE BUILDING BILL.

Mr. POLLOCK said that, with regard to the first motion standing in his name, viz.—"That this Board suggests for the consideration of the Government that it is desirable to amend paragraph 51 of Section 6 of Ordinance 1 of 1903 by substituting the words 'pantry, passage or landing' for the words 'or pantry,'" he understood that a question involving consideration of this particular paragraph of the Ordinance was likely to be raised shortly before the Police Magistrate, and until the decision of the Magistrate had been given it would be inadvisable to discuss the matter. After it had been given, a sub-committee of the Board should be appointed to go fully into Sections 143 and 144 of the Ordinance and also into the definition of the word "room" and the words "excepted area."

PLAGUE OBSERVATION BLOCKS.

Before proposing the second motion regarding this subject, Mr. Pollock pointed out that the words "thereafter" before the words "plague epidemic" should read "future." The motion as amended would then read—"That this Board suggests for the consideration of the Government that, with a view to affording greater facilities to persons who are turned out of their houses temporarily in consequence of plague, it is desirable that, in any future plague epidemic, observation blocks be erected in each of the following Health Districts, namely, Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10." In submitting his motion, Mr. Pollock said he thought it would be obvious that it was of no use to have observation blocks unless they were adjacent to the premises from which people were being turned out in consequence of plague, and it was equally obvious that people would not go to the trouble of taking a long journey and having their furniture carried by coolies for a considerable distance. Therefore, he contended, it was very important that observation blocks should be handy to the districts in which plague was most prevalent, and for that reason he had included in particular Health Districts Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. At the present time, he understood, there were only three blocks of observation-houses in the Colony—one in the extreme east, at Bowrington, close by Causeway Bay; another in the central portion of the town, at Bridges Street; and the third right away west, near the Pokfulam Road. Those in the east and west were too far out to serve the general purposes of the Colony, and in any future epidemic—next spring, most likely, when he feared there would be a recurrence of plague—steps should be taken to have observation blocks in the districts he had mentioned, where they would be readily accessible to those who wanted to make use of them.

Mr. RUMJAHN seconded.

Mr. HEWETT endorsed entirely what Mr. Pollock had said and trusted that if the proposal was adopted by the Government arrangements for selecting these blocks would be made well in advance of any possible epidemic, which, he agreed, would probably break out next spring.

The President said he might mention for the information of the members that the whole question of plague procedure next year was now being considered by the Government, and he was sure if the Board approved of this motion, which he had no doubt the members generally would do, the matter would receive due consideration by the Government.

The motion was agreed to.

MR. POLLOCK'S QUESTIONS AND THE M.O.H.'S REPLIES.

There was laid on the table the following letter from the Government relative to the printing of Mr. Pollock's questions and the M.O.H.'s replies thereto:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
2nd July, 1903.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 9th instant I am directed to acquaint you for the information of the Board that inasmuch as the questions by Mr. Pollock were put and answered at the public meeting of the Board and fully reported in the public Press, Government sees no necessity to incur the expense of printing, as suggested, the questions and answers.—I have the honour, etc.,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

SECRETARY, Sanitary Board.

Mr. Pollock affixed the following minute:—
"The Secretary's letter, or a copy of it, should be attached to these papers."

WATER ANALYSIS.

Mr. F. Browne, Government Analyst, reported that the water analysis for June showed the water from the various public services to be of excellent quality.

FOOD AND DRUGS ANALYSIS.

The Government Analyst reported that during the quarter ended 30th June he had analysed 6 samples of whisky, 1 sample of gin, 1 of brandy, 2 samples of beer and 2 of milk—all of which were found to be genuine.

EXEMPTIONS AND LICENCES.

The President, in order to expedite the business of the Board, moved with reference to the question of granting licences that under section 14, sub-section 1, of Ordinance No. 1 of 1903, the Board make the following Standing Orders:—(1) That applications for exemption from provision of open spaces required by the Public Health and Building Ordinance, 1903, may be forwarded for the consent of the Governor in Council without a resolution to that effect in each case after the circulation of the papers to the members of the Board, provided that there are no adverse minutes on the circulating paper under which the application has been circulated; and (2) with reference to applications for licences issued under Schedule B of the Public Health and Building Ordinance that they may be issued without a resolution to that effect in each case after the circulation of the papers to members of the Board provided also that there are no adverse minutes. The second proposal referred more especially to bake-house and laundry licences. It had been the custom of the Board previously to act in this way by making Standing Orders to this effect; and the reason he brought the matter up now was that the old resolution was made under the old Ordinance, and a similar resolution had not been made under the new Ordinance. Applications for licences were often received only two or three days after a meeting of the Board was held, and if the application was held over till the next meeting the delay was very considerable and affected the licences. It would be more expeditious if the Board agreed to the Standing Orders he suggested.

Mr. HEWETT said the President's proposal had come as a surprise to the Board. It appeared to him that the questions involved were very important, and, speaking subject to correction, he did not think it was altogether wise for the Board to relegate too readily their authority to committees or sub-committees. Under the Ordinance these powers had been relegated to the Sanitary Board, and they should uphold them. For himself he might say, with regard to making adverse or otherwise comments on these applications, when they came round to him he was busy as a rule, and he read them as fast as he could and in most cases initialled them merely to show that he had seen them; but because he initialled a paper that did not mean that he passed the application without any comment. He always looked at it that these questions would be more or less discussed at the Board meeting. If he thought that these questions would not be dealt with at the meetings it would involve careful study of the questions at the moment; and probably what he had said was the view taken by most of the unofficial members of the Board.

and was being consumed, but in the villages near by, inland from the river bank, the rice was not quite ready. They requested 10,000

catties only, and assured me that would be sufficient. I suggested to them, as they had a convenient centre, that they adopt the practice at Kwai Peng of distributing every three days and giving unboiled rice. Twelve ox (Chinese) to be the minimum portion and up to three catties according to need. They promised to adopt this suggestion and to send me regularly a report of the work done. They expressed themselves as quite clear on three details over which I feared there might be misunderstanding, viz.:—(i) The rice was for free distribution only, not for cheap sale. (ii) It is to be distributed unboiled. (iii) That the responsibility for, and expense of carrying up from boat is their business. Unloaded 10,000 catties and set sail at 5 p.m.

Arrived near village called Cham Pan Hu at 6 p.m. on opposite side of river from Cheung Tong. The people called to ask for help. Went into the place and found it in a very dilapidated condition. The people were evidently in need. Some other villages were distant two and three miles. Persuaded them to send messengers and inform them that rice was here, for the needy only. Next morning, Thursday, June 25th, at 6 a.m. distributed rice to people from this village, on river bank, 2,200 catties, giving to each person about 15 catties. Gave to old gentleman from small place across the way consisting of twenty souls, 20 catties for distribution. Afterwards people from villages in Cham Pan Tun, sent to last evening, arrived, on river bank. They numbered 45, but leading man gave me detailed lists of over one hundred people. Did not feel justified in giving out rice recklessly, so handed to them for distribution 800 catties. Left this place at 8.30 a.m. and two hours later as we neared a sandy beach on right hand river bank, saw a number of people assembled. They informed us they were from a village called Ngan Wan. Caused people to sit down in order. They numbered about 100. Distributed to each one in measures holding thirteen catties, and gave in all 1,550 catties.

Reached Po Min at 2.0 p.m. With colporteur went to Shin Tong and saw five of the leading members and most influential people of the town. They said that matters were very bad, that 1,500 people had been daily receiving rice-gruel during the two months they had been distributing but that the people who were really in need of rice were very many more. Harvest was not due for twenty days at least. They promised to see to distribution in the different villages on their side of the river, but told me plainly they could not undertake any places on the north bank. Decided to give them 40,000 catties. At the Shin Tong also had conversation with gentlemen from villages on north side of river. Gave 6,000 catties to San Ch'u (large place) 1,800 to Kam Ting, No San and No Tap (very small places) and 200 catties to Tam Hung. Finished weighing by dark.

They understood clearly that rice was (i) For free distribution (ii) That portage from rice boats was their business. (iii) That no deserving person was to be refused help, irrespective of what his native village might be.

Left Po Mui at dawn on Friday, June 26th. At 8.30 a.m. old gentleman came in boat with six others from village on North bank, named Sheung Chau, to crave help. Population now one hundred odd. A few people had food. Crops had been destroyed by robbers and some people killed. A few had died of starvation. Gave them 800 catties.

Reached Leung Hing at 12.30 p.m. Visited men of the municipality with colporteur. They said there were several poor and needy people in their village, and that in the vicinity the villages were exceedingly needy. Offered to go at once to some of them to see. No one was willing to accompany me to point out the way. Took this as an indication they were rather afraid I would find the places not so needy as they had represented. Found that the village of Leung Hing itself was in very fair condition. Business seemed good, the shops were well stocked, the people healthy and strong in appearance. On way back told the very necessitous to come down to boat. A company was soon gathered together and to them distributed 400 catties and set sail for Nanning at 2.30 p.m.

Reached Nanning at 7 a.m. Saturday, June

27th. Called upon the Un Magistrate, who did not appear much interested in the object for which I had come. Said the conditions here were not so bad and the villages could not be reached even by soldiers on a count of robbers. Requested him to lend me a horse and a few soldiers and I would visit villages and investigate. He promised to see the Taotai about this matter, as he could not say anything before doing so. Neither could he promise me a place for the storage of rice before consulting him. Would let me have an answer next day.

On Sunday, June 28th, a deputation of four gentlemen called upon me. Three were from Cheung Tong and came to express thanks for the rice given out there; the fourth man was from Ling Li and came to beg for rice for that place and district. He was not present when I called and explained that the seeming indifference of the people was caused by fear. They have been completely cowed lately in consequence of the raids of robbers and the eventual burning of their village, and they dared not enter into any transaction with me for fear of consequences, although their circumstances were worse than those existing elsewhere. Even rice-bowls many of the people did not possess. He assured me that there were at least in the thirty villages of that district about 900 people without food, and without the hope of any for three months, as the first crop had not been planted owing to the lack of rice. Gave him 20,000 catties. Later in the day a gentleman named Lu Lung Kwong came from Lo Lin to ask for rice for that district. Mr. Hinkey had told me that this place was in great distress. It is five miles inland from Leung Hing, and had the people there shown greater willingness to help in relieving distress I would possibly have left rice for this place and district there. Mr. Hinkey had mentioned to me a gentleman named U Fu Ai, a native of Lo Lin, an honest and responsible man. This gentleman called upon me yesterday, but as I had not then seen the magistrate felt I could not on the instant promise him anything and requested him to wait till evening for an answer. This gentleman named above came in his stead to-day, as Mr. U could not remain longer in Nanning. In No Lin district there are 30 villages with a population of 3,000, all of whom are needy. Rice is due in about a month. Gave him 10,000 catties.

During the day the Un and the Wai magistrates came to see me. The latter had conducted Mr. Clementi from Kwai Un to this place on the occasion of his visit two months ago. The Un informed me that the Taotai was very pleased I had come to distribute rice and wished to extend his sincere thanks to the Hongkong Committee for their generous contribution of rice. The Wai Un seemed to be well informed of the state of affairs here, and told me that had it not been for the promise of rice made by Mr. Clementi the distribution of gruel would have ceased at the end of the fourth Chinese month, but in consequence of that promise the Kwangsi Shen Tong had continued to give during the fifth months and the Kwangtung Shin Tong was now distributing for this, the intercalary fifth month. The people were in expectation of this "English" rice and would be disappointed if they did not now receive it. Ten days he thought would be sufficiently long for distribution in the city itself.

The officials seemed greatly opposed to my going into the country to investigate at present, offering as their reason the bad condition of the roads and the presence of robbers. They promised to send members of the gentry class into the more distant villages to enquire and make full lists as to the numbers of the destitute. I hope to see the gentry to-morrow and to arrange a system for the distribution of unboiled rice to the people of Nanning and immediate neighbourhood. I hope to arrange it on the Kwai Peng system. This distribution will be for the people living within walking distance of the distributing centre. The investigations of the gentry above referred to are limited to the places beyond easy walking distances.

I enclose a rough draft showing amount of rice still in hand to credit the Hongkong Committee. Trusting you will find everything in order.—Believe me, your obedient servant,
CHARLES G. COFF.

Reliefs of rice on account of the Hongkong Famine Relief Committee, Kwai Un to Nanning, to date June 28th, 1903.

	Catties.
June 21. Wing Shun lent U.S. Consulate	5,035
22. Shipwrecked crew	20
23. Ling Li	60
Ling Li odd persons	50
Cheung Tong	10,000
Cheung Tong odd person	3
24. Cham Pan Hu	2,200
Na Ho	200
Cham Pan Tun	800
Cham Pan Tun odd persons	
short of rice through delays	
caused by rice junks	50
Own crew	50
Ngau Wan	1,550
June 25. Po Min	40,000
San Ch'u	6,000
Kam Ting, etc.	1,800
Tam Hung	200
26. Sheung Chau	800
Leung Hing	400
28. Ling Li	20,000
	134,758

Total shipment from Kwai Un 244,068
Distribution to date June 28th, 1903 134,758

Still in hand... 109,310
N.B.—10,000 catties promised No Lin not yet deducted, as it has not been discharged up to present. Will appear on next account.

CHINESE AND THE NEW ORDINANCE.

The *Chung Ngai Sa Po* (Chinese Daily Press) of yesterday contained some strongly-worded comments on the new Public Health and Buildings Ordinance. The following is a free translation of the leading article:—

"Now that the new Public Health Bill has been passed, the Government has commenced to take measurements of the interior of dwellings in No. 5 Health District, with a view to deciding the maximum number of persons who should be permitted to live in each flat. The Chinese inhabitants are much agitated by the news, and since the commencement of the Tomb Festival many have moved their families back to Canton, and there is great concern as to how the Government officials will carry out the new Ordinance. House-rent in Hongkong is now enormously high, and the Colony has become one of the dearest places in the world to live in. Rice is dear, fuel is dear, and if the Government intends to enforce this new Ordinance to the full extent it will be extremely difficult for the Chinese inhabitants to live here. Those with small incomes will not be able to remain here, but will be obliged to remove their families to the mainland. Whichever way the matter is looked at, it will bear very harshly on the Chinese. If the men remain here owing to trade connections, they will have to provide for their families in Canton, at great inconvenience because of the distance, and if the families remain here, the expense of living will be so high that they will be unable to make ends meet. Consequently, the minds of the Chinese are aflame. We are told that in a certain street in the Wanchai district it will be necessary to pull down the partitions in the flats in order to meet the Government requirements, but we do not vouch for the accuracy of the rumour. At midnight on the 12th inst. a sanitary inspector made a house-to-house visitation in Gough Street, and next day the Sanitary Authority issued circulars to the house-owners requesting them to pull down all partitions on every floor within a fortnight, and they are not allowed to be put up again without the consent of the Sanitary Board. Now, the upper flats are as a rule occupied by several families, and the abolition of partitions will rob them of the privacy they now enjoy. Everyone knows the sentiments of Chinese women in this respect, and if the law is put in force it will be a great violence to their feelings of modesty. Some time ago, in the by-lanes, the Government would not allow partitions or cubicles to be put up. We hope that the Government will soon amend the Ordinance.

May be, the Government will permit the use of curtains or screens, as they have done in the houses in the by-lanes, but if the Ordinance is put in force at once, how are we to have curtains or screens ready? If the Chinese petition the Sanitary Board, how long will they have to wait for an answer? We beg the Government to have some consideration for the Chinese. If one keeps a pig, a goat, or a cow, it is kept in a separate compartment. Are there to be no such reservations for human beings? Are Chinese to be regarded as lower than pigs and goats? All peoples are alike in that they are created by the great Providence, but the Chinese are now being put in a position lower than that of four-footed animals. We feel deeply pained to have to give expression to those sentiments.

There is another matter to which we wish to call attention. The Chinese members of the Legislative Council and the Sanitary Board are not fighting on behalf of the Chinese inhabitants of the Colony, and have not taken any steps to inform the Chinese inhabitants beforehand of the action of the Government. Perhaps, when these laws were passed by the Legislature, the Chinese members were absent. Must Chinese males and females live promiscuously in disregard of the rules of propriety? Or is the action that of the Sanitary inspectors only, without the knowledge of the Government? We cannot solve the puzzle. We are quite aware that the Government officials in this Colony are doing their best for the Chinese inhabitants. We have 200,000 Chinese living in the Colony, and it is their fervent prayer that the Government will the speedily amend Ordinance. In case the Government has issued circulars calling for the removal of the partitions, it would be a good act on their part to recall them, and amend the Ordinance so that it will not operate harshly on the Chinese population. We are quite willing to obey all rules of the Sanitary Department, but if this law should be amended, the Chinese inhabitants would never cease to be grateful."

THE NEW STREET TRAMWAYS.

The work of constructing the new street tramways is proceeding steadily. About two-and-a-half miles of line have reached completion, and operations covering other large stretches of ground are nearing that stage. The trolley-wire poles are being erected in outlying parts of the city, and the brickwork of the power station at Bowrington Wanchai, is so well advanced as to be almost ready for the roof; the "beds" for the engines are now being put in there.

As to the cars, the service will comprise 26, of these 10 being for Europeans and 16 for natives. The former will carry 32 passengers and have the seats placed longwise, whilst the latter will provide accommodation for 44 people, and have the seats running crosswise. The interior of the cars is fully protected against the weather. In the summer, there are blinds which can be utilised to shut out the sun's rays or to afford shelter from the rain, and ventilation is secured by letting down the windows and opening the sliding doors at each end. No seats will be fixed on the top of the cars, as we have already stated. The total length of the cars, which will be lit with electricity, is 29 feet and the maximum width 6 feet 6 inches; they are all fitted with life-guards, which are placed in front of the wheels and reach close to the rails. Whether or not the tramways will be a success financially is a question that the future alone can decide, but so far as their existence as a working system is concerned the promoters are more than confident that they will be a success, and that the travelling public will have nothing to complain of.

The importation into the F.M.S. of subsidiary silver coin issued by the Government of Hongkong is forbidden.

L'Echo de Chine has an article on supremacy in the Pacific Ocean and suggests that the struggle for the Pacific may be one of the causes of the Anglo-French rapprochement.

ROBBERIES IN HONGKONG.

A recrudescence in crime has taken place within the past week, as is evidenced by the various robberies, street and otherwise, that have been committed. Two more were reported on the 11th inst. In the first, three armed men, it is alleged, entered a Chinese dwelling-house at West Point, and, having gagged and bound the inmates, two women and a man, ransacked the place and left with jewelry and money to the amount of about \$500 in their possession. The victims were taken completely by surprise. The robbery was perpetrated at three o'clock on Saturday morning, at which hour the people were awakened to find three natives standing over them with daggers. The latter covered their victim's mouths to silence any cries for help, and forced gags between their teeth; then they bound their hands behind them, and completed the work by appropriating all the valuables they could find. When the robbers had gone the unfortunate occupants of the house succeeded in so far loosening their gags as to be able to attract the attention of some neighbours, who entered and liberated them. Information was lodged at No. 7 Police Station, West Point, and the affair is now being actively investigated.

The second robbery occurred in the street at Hungghom, and had a ricksha-coolie for victim. His vehicle was engaged by a countryman who was evidently working in concert with another, for in Austin Road, near the Indian barracks, a man jumped from behind some bushes and threw pepper in the coolie's eyes. He offered resistance, whereupon his fare caught him by the queue and held him prisoner whilst the other man rifled him. He had \$1.10 in his purse, and this the miscreants decamped with. The coolie reported the occurrence, which took place at eleven o'clock on the 11th inst., at Yau-mati Police Station; but it is unlikely in the circumstances that his assailants will be arrested.

A Chinese youth who stole jewelry and money to the total amount of \$870 from the house of his adopted parents at 39, East Street, in order to go and see the procession at Macao on the 8th, 9th, and 10th inst., was sentenced to one month's hard labour at the Police Court on the 11th inst.

Thefts have been frequent at the Hongkong Club of late, and the closest investigation failed till on the 15th inst. to reveal the thief. It was supposed that the guilt lay with the Chinese servants, but that assumption has turned out to be wrong. One of the Indian watchmen, Vazeer by name, has been accused, and will be charged with larceny at the Magistrate's Court this morning; he made an unsuccessful attempt to implicate one of the "boys," and will have to face the music alone. The Club members the loss of whose property resulted in the present proceedings are Messrs. Thiel, Finko, Blason, and Thomson, and the articles stolen consisted of gold sleeve-links, gold studs, a nickel watch, a gold chain, and a diamond ring. The most of them were traced to a pawnshop, the proprietor of which was taken to the Central Police Station to identify, if possible, the person who pledged them. The uniformed Indian watchmen from the Club were drawn up in line, and when the pawnbroker scanned their faces he had no difficulty in picking out one, who was thereupon conducted away and charged. He has since been committed for trial. All the property, with the exception of a set of gold studs and a pair of gold sleeve-links belonging to Mr. Thomson, has been recovered.

Another was added on Thursday to the list of street robberies which have taken place in the Colony recently, the victim this time being Miss Berkeley, daughter of the Hon. Sir H. S. Berkeley, Attorney-General. Luckily the incident was witnessed by an European, and the thief is now awaiting an appearance at the Police Court. Miss Berkeley and her sister were out shopping, and the former was carrying her purse, which contained only a small sum of money, in her hand. At Lee Yuen Street, a notoriously bad locality, the thief came up behind Miss Berkeley and snatched her purse away. She screamed, and Sanitary Inspector Cullen, who was riding past in his ricksha and saw the Chinaman dart off, jumped out and

made after him. The chase was a long one, and many attempts were made by Chinese to block Inspector Cullen's way. He showed these fellows scant consideration, but might never have caught his man had he not been able to attract the notice of Police-Inspector Williamson, who was in the vicinity and joined in the pursuit; between them they captured the miscreant, who was taken to the Central Police Station and charged. The case will probably be heard to-day.

OPIUM-MAKING IN HONGKONG.

HOW THE DRUG IS PREPARED.

In Hongkong there are some 220 public opium-divans—90 of the first class and 130 of the second—where at all times the opium-smoker can be seen seeking solace through the stem of his long pipe charged with poppy juice. It must not be supposed, however, that the smoking of opium is confined to these places, for there is hardly a hong in the city but has its opium-smoking couch upon which callers and customers are invited to recline and enjoy a pipe; while in private life also the opium habit is indulged in. But it is in the divans that one gets to close touch with the thing. In the No. 1 divans one finds Chinese of the better class. They may buy their opium there and smoke it; or they may take with them their own drug, in which case the dross left in the pipe after smoking becomes the property of the divan-keeper and the smoker gets the use of the pipe in return for the dross. In the second-class divans one finds the *habitués* to be from the lower strata of the Chinese community; here prepared opium is little used, the smokers using instead the cheap dross which is left after the first smoking of the drug by their wealthier countrymen.

Most of the crude opium brought into the Colony comes from India, and the monopoly is vested in the Opium Farm, to which it is periodically farmed out by the Government. Most people who know the East are aware of the method by which the juice is gathered from the poppy: how the seed-bulb of the flower is incised and the juice flows out as a milky liquid, concretes in a brownish mass, and is scraped off the bulb and collected into lumps such as are found in the market. But comparatively little is known of the process through which the opium afterwards goes before it is ready for smoking. Yet in Macao and in Wanchai are large opium-preparing establishments where work goes on unceasingly from year's end to year's end. A visit to the Wanchai factory of the Opium Farm is full of interest to the uninitiated.

In the first place the inspissated juice obtained from the bulb of the poppy flower is enclosed in a shell consisting of the leaves of the flower and plant and rolled in the shape of a ball weighing about 4 lbs. This is the shape in which the crude opium reaches the factory for preparation into the article beloved of the smoker. The shell in which the opium is wrapped is divided into three layers; the first or outside layer being dry and of no use is thrown away, though some of the poorer classes chew it with their betel. The second layer, which is impregnated to a certain extent with opium, is stewed along with the innermost layer, from which is first scraped carefully all the pulp attached to it. The water resulting from this stewing process is of a brown colour, contains a small percentage of the drug and is used for boiling the pulp in.

As regards the boiling of the pulp, this is done in a brass pan over a charcoal fire—all pans used in the preparation of opium must be of brass and all fires of charcoal. The opium water having been first thickened a little, the boiling goes on for about two hours, and, as it proceeds, the scum of the boiling liquid, containing all the impurities, is skimmed off with wooden spoons or pieces of wood made in the shape of a long-handled bat and thrown away. After being boiled the opium thickens to about the consistency of putty, and it is then removed to smaller pans and kneaded with wooden scrapers for about an hour and a half. When the kneading is completed the opium is spread out in the pans by means of ladles, being sprinkled at the same time with water blown in a spray from the mouth of the worker in the same manner as is employed by the Chinese laundryman when engaged in ironing

clothes for the *fan-kwei*. As a result of being subjected to this treatment the opium forms a thick layer on the inner side of the pan. This layer is then dried or fried by placing the pan upside down over a small fire or the ashes of a fire, the drying lasting about an hour, after which the opium can be easily separated by the fingers into leaves, generally to the number of about twenty. These leaves are broken up and placed in a brass pan together with fresh water and allowed to stand overnight in another room. Next morning this solution of opium is filtered through a basket lined with brown joss-paper into an earthenware pot below, a bundle of Chinese lamp-wick being first placed on the edge of the basin containing the opium solution so that as the opium water runs out into the strainer the wick absorbs the bulk of the impurities. This solution of opium thus filtered is then ready for thickening into opium proper, which is accomplished by placing it in large brass pans over a fire, workmen stirring it the while in order to give it the same consistency throughout. Any scum that may still remain rises to the top while the liquid is being boiled and is removed with a long feather. On the completion of this process the opium is ready for smoking and is put into tins for sale. Opium thus prepared has the same consistency as treacle and can only be distinguished from it by the smell.

In handling large quantities such as are dealt with at the Opium Farm here a more economical method is used than that described above. In what may be called the next-morning filtration—after the opium has passed through the lamp-wick—there remains a sediment at the bottom of the pot. This sediment is added to the grains of the opium adhering to the joss-paper in the strainer and five or six quarts of boiling water are poured slowly over the mixture from an ordinary kettle, the water thus poured over it running into a vessel placed below to receive it. This opium water after being allowed to settle all night is added next morning to the opium water which has been filtered through the lamp-wick, and then goes through the last thickening process over the fire as described in the first method. By the adoption of this process a great saving is effected in the large factories through the utilisation of the refuse precipitated from the first filtration. Any sediment left over after this is thrown away.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

At the present time a specimen of the "Holy Ghost plant" may be seen in flower in the centre house in the old garden, and so far as is known it is the first time that the species has flowered in Hongkong. Another name for it is the "Dove Orchid," and it gets this appellation from the peculiar form of the part of the flower known as the column, which resembles a dove with outstretched wings. The flowers are waxy white, about 2 inches across, and are borne on a scape 4 or 5 ft. high. Its botanical name is *Peristeria elata*, and it is a native of Panama.

Just now the spathes of *Anthurium ferriense* make a very pretty show, their brilliant pink colouring being especially attractive. The finely-marked leaves of *Anthurium crystallinum* and *Anthurium magnificum* are also seen to advantage at this time of the year. "The Flamingo plant," which also belongs to the same genus, flowers earlier in the year. The *Anthuriums* occupy the centre stage in the same house as the Dove Orchid. They belong to the Arum Family or *Aroides*, and are natives of South America.

It may be interesting to note that the peacocks which were presented to the Botanic Gardens last year by Mr. Fung Wa Chun have been given their liberty, and may now be seen strutting about on the lawns in the new garden.

The amount of rain registered this year up to date [the 15th inst.] is 53.49 inches, and so far this month there has been a fall of 5.36 inches.

The second-class cruiser *Sirius* (Capt. C. H. H. Moore) is expected here shortly. H.M. sloop *Rosario* arrived on the 15th inst. from the north.

TIENTSIN SIDING DISPUTE.

The following is the text of Mr. G. Detring's award in the above celebrated dispute:—

In reference to the Bund, Railway Station Road and parcels of land in dispute and referred for arbitration by L. C. Hopkins, Esq., H.B.M. Consul General, acting as British Commissioner by despatch dated the 13th of March, 1903;

And by N. Laptew, H.I.R.M. Consul acting as Russian Commissioner by despatch dated the 12th March 1903;

I, the undersigned, having been called upon to arbitrate in the above matter and having after scrutiny of the papers and documentary evidence submitted come to the conclusion that the said Bund Road, Railway Station Road and parcel of land marked on plan submitted C, B, and D, were acquired by the Railway Administration previous to the troubles of the year 1900, and form therefore part and parcel of the land dealt with in the Chi Cha Low case in which award was made under date of the 20th April 1903.

Accordingly, and to the best of my knowledge and belief,

1. I adjudicate the said Roads and parcels of land to the Railway Administration, so that they may be dealt with in conformity with the provisions of the compromise as recorded in the minutes of the first meeting of the Railway Commission held at H.B.M. Consulate-General on July the 25th, 1902;

2. With regard to the alleged right of Prince Su to the and forming the Bund Road, Railway Road and parcels of land marked C, B, and D, the claim is to be dealt with as provided in paragraph 2 of my decision in the Chi Cha Low land case.

G. DETRING,
Arbitrator.

Tientsin, 30th June 1903

ARMS-SMUGGLING IN TO CHINA.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* publishes the following telegram, which is dated Berlin, 7th July:—

Japanese papers are charging German firms with smuggling arms into China, saying that Consul-General Dr. Kuappe was entirely blind to this, and that even German men-of-war were introducing arms into China. Official reports from East Asia state, however, that the German authorities have refused all requests for permits to import arms. There is no doubt that not a single German firm is doing an illegitimate arms business. On the other hand, it is a well known fact that both the Japanese and the Belgians are acting in another way. It is spoken about openly that Japan is just now negotiating with China in regard to an import of 200,000 rifles of the Murata and another new model. Governor Chou Fu, of Shantung, has only lately received a box with samples. Besides that, Japan has sold to China 48 guns, and is negotiating about another 24. Chinese officers have already gone to Japan to take them over. They are imported under the declaration that they are intended for the Japanese troops now in North China.

With reference to this Mr. L. Vander Stegen writes to the *N.-C. Daily News*:—The Japanese accuse the Germans of smuggling arms into China, which they deny, and throw the ball at the accusers, at the same time charging the Belgians with participating in the trade. ("It was not I, said the Cat, it was the mice who did it.") Allow me to deny emphatically the German accusation towards Belgium, since the signing of the Peace Protocol forbidding the introduction of arms into China, the Belgian Minister of Finance has issued order to the Customs, forbidding shipment of any arms to China not excepting Hongkong, and to illustrate how strictly this order is carried out I will tell you that last December I wanted to ship from Belgium six revolvers and six thousand cartridges by a German steamer, but was refused permission by the Customs. As the weapons were intended for European use, I applied to the Minister of Finance for special permission, but he would not grant same, on account of the Protocol in question, declaring at the same time that he had already refused permission to many German applicants.

THE KWANGSI TROUBLES.

Reliable news from private sources in Hunan received in Shanghai reports the invasion of that province by Kwangsi rebels who now hold the Hunan districts of Ch'engku, Hsiening, Linling, and Yungming in force, while the districts of Tungan, Chiaoghuo, Taochou, and Tugtao also contain roving bands of rebels who are being freely joined by local desperadoes and banditti. The inhabitants of the above districts, or *hsiens*, are panicstricken and the roads and highways in that region are crowded with refugees hastening to quieter scenes. This, of course, is just what the local banditti wish as it gives them exceptional opportunities to plunder the refugees. Later despatches further state that it is freely reported in Ch'angsha, the provincial capital of Hunan, that the city of Yungming has fallen into the hands of the Kwangsi rebels, and that the city of Linling is momentarily expected to surrender also. The Government troops opposing the rebels number over 2,000 men but being greatly inferior to the rebels not only in numbers but also in firearms, they dare not leave the protection of the city walls to fight the invaders. As a matter of fact the highways near the Kwangsi-Hunan border are completely commanded by the rebels and their sympathisers. A case in point is given below:—A strong band of rebel sympathisers were recently threatening the city of Anjehnsien, Hsengchou prefecture, and could not have taken the city owing to lack of sufficient firearms and ammunition. The Governor, however, was ready to give them what they wanted. Hearing of the danger of Yungminghsien, Governor Chao Erh-sen sent a large supply of rifles and ammunition under the ridiculously small escort of ten "braves" to Yungminghsien to arm the citizens of that city as troops could not be immediately forthcoming. No sooner had the escort and firearms arrived within the Anjehnsien jurisdiction than they were pounced upon by rebel sympathisers, who killed the escort, took the much-needed arms, and then assailed and captured that city.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The following Imperial decree was issued on the 7th inst. We are indebted to the *N.-C. Daily News* for the translation.

"We have received a memorial from Tsên Ch'un-hsien, Viceroy of the Two Kwang provinces, denouncing the high authorities and military officials of Kwangsi province. The present disastrous condition of that province is all due to the incapability of the officials and their habit of trying to hide the true state of affairs, which make us feel exceedingly indignant. The cashiered Taotai Huang Jen-chi, who was guilty of hiding the true state of affairs from his superiors, and the cashiered Major-General, Shên Tao-fa, who permitted his troops to oppress the inhabitants of Kwangsi and perform other cruelties, are hereby commanded to be banished to the military post-roads to work as convicts in punishment thereof. As for Tang Shou-min, the Provincial Treasurer of Kwangsi, he has been found guilty of incapability in administering the province; Hsi Hsien, Provincial Judge, who has been found guilty of having received bribes when occupying the acting post of Provincial Treasurer; Wang Chih-ch'un, Governor of Kwangsi, who has been found guilty of incapability in undertaking military affairs and hiding matters from the Throne; and General Su Yuau-ch'un, whose incapability created the danger which threatens the province—all the above officials are hereby commanded to be cashiered at once and dismissed from office. The memorialist, the said Acting Viceroy Tsên Ch'un-hsien, is exhorted to do his best in restoring order out of the chaos into which the incapability of the officials of Kwangsi has plunged that province, and is hereby given full power to deal with local officials as may seem best to him.

We are informed that the accounts of Messrs. William Powell, Ltd., show, subject to audit, a profit of some \$26,000, to 31st June last. These figures will admit of a dividend of 10 per cent. on the capital, leaving a considerable sum for writing off and providing for expenses in removing into the new premises in Des Vaux Road, etc.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 15th July.

THE NEW VICEROY.

The officials of the Liang Kwang had indeed good cause for trembling in their shoes when the appointment of the new Viceroy was announced. Upright and scrupulous himself, he is determined to show no mercy to those who line their own pockets at the expense of the people. During his short stay in Canton he degraded the famous Nam Hoi magistrate, and now, as the result of his investigations in Kwangsi, twenty of the highest officials in that province have been severely punished.

An Imperial Edict was issued on the 6th instant, in response to a memorial from the Viceroy denouncing many of the Kwangsi officials, and attributing the spread of the rebellion to their incapacity. The best known of the victims are Governor Wang, whose name has been prominent lately in connection with the famine fund, and Marshal Su, who failed signally in his attempts to put down the rebellion. Two officials, Judge Huang and Brigadier-General Shih, have been dismissed and are to be exiled for some years. The Provincial Treasurer, Tang Shou Ming, has also been dismissed from office.

The new Viceroy is being vigorously supported at Peking in his policy. Cleaning out the Angaen stable is usually a dangerous and at the best a thankless task, but the great Viceroy is evidently in favour at Court, and the reforms he is instituting will be thorough, and it is to be hoped will change the face of the southern provinces.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS.

The Treasurer of Kwangsi, K'o Feng Shih, who has been appointed in the place of Governor Wang, bears a good reputation, and doubtless all the officials who fill the vacant places in Kwangsi will be trustworthy men. News is to hand of the appointment of Wan Chung Yen as Chief Interpreter to the Viceroy in the place of the well-known Li Chi. Mr. Wan has been a clerk in the Imperial Maritime Customs service, and is a graduate of Queen's College, Hongkong. When the Viceroy returns to Canton he will doubtless proceed on the same lines, and the officials in this city are scarcely to be envied.

A CANTON KIDNAPPING TALE.

A Washington telegram dated the 10th June says:—"News has reached here that Mr. McWade, American Consul-General at Canton, has sent a gunboat to rescue, or to demand of the Viceroy to secure the release of, an American who has been kidnapped by pirates as he was proceeding to Heungshan [sic]. The commander of the gunboat will also demand the punishment of the pirates. The latter ask for a ransom of \$9,000 for the captive." The truth of this tale we believe to be as follows. In the first week in June a steam launch on her way to Heungshan was seized by pirates. Among those on board was an American-born Chinaman, a naturalised citizen of the United States, whom the pirates thought a prize worth holding to ransom. Now it happened that the captive was insured in a great New York insurance office which has a branch in Canton. News of his mishap was despatched to Canton, and the U. S. Consul took immediate steps. A preliminary message was sent from Canton to the local magistrate charging him to get the man released. The appearance of the *Callao* on the scene at this moment was, we are told, accidental, but the coincidence was most impressive to the Chinese. The magistrate hastened to the insurance office, "kowtowing" deeply and promising to secure the prisoner's release. True enough, he was at freedom without loss of time—and the insurance office received a very encouraging advertisement in native eyes.

We are officially authorised to state that, subject to audit, the directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation will recommend at the forthcoming meeting a dividend of £1.10s. per share; add to the reserve fund \$500,000; write off property account \$200,000; and carry forward about \$1,425,000.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 9th July.

DEATH OF OUR HARBOUR MASTER.

It is with regret that I have to record the demise of one of the important members of our community, in the person of Captain Henry Archibald McInnes, Tide Surveyor and Harbour Master. I. M. Customs, which occurred on the 7th instant, after a comparatively short illness. Small as is our cosmopolitan community, the olden fates have claimed one of its numbers, whose loss is doubtless most severely felt by his two daughters, who are scarcely in their teens. To them the sympathy of the whole community is freely offered. The funeral took place on the 8th instant, and was attended by the whole community. The coffin was brought to the Protestant Cemetery by eight of the Customs boatmen in uniform, and after the reading of the burial service, which, in the absence of the Rev. Mr. Blanchett from this port, was duly performed by Dr. L. G. Hill, of the Church Missionary Hospital, the coffin was lowered into the grave by six members of the Customs staff. The deceased was in his 62nd year of age, and had been in the Customs service for no less than 28 years, having joined it in February, 1875.

THE "COMETE."

The French gunboat *Comète* has been with us for nearly one week and is likely to remain with us for sometime yet.

RAIN-STORM.

One of these tropical rain-storms visited us on the morning of the 27th ult. It began at 3 a.m. and continued till 7 a.m., when there was a torrential downpour which flooded the town to such an extent that it rendered the streets almost impassable for a good part of the day. Many shanties, especially those innocent of lime in their erection, were partially and others wholly washed away. Three beggars were found dead through exposure or drowning. Lightning struck two houses, killing one young man in each of them.

THE RICE-CROP.

The harvest of this grain has been all successfully collected, and the peasants in the surrounding villages are rejoicing at the fruit of their toil; but the price of the staple shows no material drop, as the well-to-do farmers are replenishing their granaries, rendered empty during the failing crops of the three previous years.

THE NEW GERMAN CONSUL.

Herr Von Varchmin arrived here on the 7th instant to succeed Dr. A. Mudra as Consul for Germany of this port. Dr. Mudra leaves to-day for Hongkong.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS IN HONGKONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 13th July.

SIR.—The scandal on the Colony in permitting the existence of such cruelties as were brought to light by the correspondence in Saturday's *Daily Press* should have no cause to thrive in a city with the civilised population Hongkong is supposed to have. The state of affairs pointed out to us in the columns of the *Daily Press* is an every-day occurrence, milder in most instances, but crime none the less. Are not ponies seen at all hours night after night in the harness they have worn all day standing along various streets when they should be unharnessed and in stable or pasture? When they are driven every coolie who can gain a foot- or hand-hold clings on. The combined weight of the passengers is seldom less than double the weight of the little animal attached to the clumsy vehicles. If these things cannot be observed until pointed out to us by the *Daily Press*, when once they have been brought under the notice of the public, can our Colonial Officials devise no way of regulating the hours and burdens of these dumb little beasts to protect them against the cowardly and disgraceful treatment by their inferiors? Wake up!—Yours, etc.,

N. V. H.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 15th July.

SIR.—How much longer will the public have to wait for the Government to take active measures against cruelty by Chinamen to animals, such as was insinuated in your columns only the other day. In my opinion Chinese carriage-drivers should not be allowed the use of the whip under any circumstances, and the vehicles should only be drawn by animals fit for the purpose. I have no hesitation whatever in saying that the gharry ponies now in use are utterly unfitted to be harnessed to the cumbersome affairs known as gharries, in addition to which they are ill-fed and thrashed mercilessly every day of their lives. Such being the case there is no alternative for the authorities but to bring the culprits face to face with rigorous justice; anything else would be a travesty and a hollow mockery of the common laws of humanity.—Yours, etc.,

HUMANE.

SUPREME COURT.

Wednesday, 15th July.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND CAPTAIN E. BEETHAM, R.S. "TARTAR" (ASSESSOR).

KWOK PO v. S.S. "RUBI."

This was an action of damages arising out of a collision which occurred between the Sun Kwong Hop fishing-junk, No. H. 2,141 and the s.s. *Rubi* in the Lema Channel near Putoy Island on 9th February, 1903. Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. H. J. Gedge of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master, solicitors), appeared for the plaintiffs; and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. H. W. Looker of Messrs. Deacon & Hastings, solicitors), was for the defendants.

Plaintiff in his preliminary act stated that the names of the colliding vessels were the Sun Kwong Hop fishing junk No. H. 2,141 masters, Kwok A Po and Kwok A Kan (now deceased), and the s.s. *Rubi*, master, R. W. Almond. The collision occurred between 3.30 a.m. and 4 a.m. on the morning of the 9th February, 1903, in the Lema Channel within the waters of the Colony and a short distance to the south of Putoy Island. There was a strong easterly wind prevailing. It was a dark, dirty night; neither moon nor stars were visible. State and force of the tide unknown. The Sun Kwong Hop junk's course was about S.S.E.; speed about three miles an hour. She carried one white light suspended on a pole at the stern of the junk. When first seen, the other ship was about two miles off on the port bow; her masthead light was first seen. Afterwards her red and green lights came into view before the collision. No measures except calling out were taken to avoid collision. The stem of the *Rubi* and the port side of the junk behind her mainmast about 30 feet from the stern were the parts that came into collision. The other ship, the *Rubi*, was recklessly navigated, did not keep a proper lookout, and improperly neglected to take in due time proper measures for avoiding a collision with the plaintiff's junk. The *Rubi* did not keep out of the way of the plaintiff junk.

Defendants in their preliminary act stated that the collision occurred at 3.30 a.m. on 9th February, in Lat. 22°30' N., Long. 114°16' E., off Putoy Island. There was a fresh breeze; direction about N.E. The weather was clear but cloudy and very dark; tide half-flood, force unknown. The *Rubi*'s course when the junk was first seen was about W. by N.; speed about 10 knots an hour; she carried all her regulation lights, i.e., masthead lights and stern light and side light. When first seen the junk was about a ship's length ahead of the *Rubi* and slightly on her starboard bow. The first light seen on the junk was a dim light at the stern about three feet above the deck. No other lights on the junk came into view before the collision. With regard to the measures taken, and when, to avoid collision: directly the junk was seen the helm of the *Rubi* was put hard aport and her engines reversed full speed; a

short blast was also blown on her whistle. The port bow of the *Rubi* and the port side of the stern of the junk were the parts of the vessels that came into collision. No proper lookout was kept on board the junk; the junk carried no proper lights, and she was navigated in a reckless and unseamanlike manner.

Mr. Slade having put in charts showing the place of collision,

His Lordship asked whether or no anything turned upon this having happened in territorial waters?

Mr. Sharp—We say they were outside.

Mr. Slade—We say they were inside. The issue, he went on to say, would resolve itself into a very simple question. Plaintiffs placed the collision about three-quarters of a mile nearer Putoy than the defendants did. He presumed it would be proved by the defendants that the boundary of the territorial waters of the Colony ran along Lat. 22.9; he did not admit that it did so, but otherwise the Ordinance would not apply. Assuming that it was proved that the boundary ran along that line, then the question was the exact place where the collision occurred: was it just inside or just outside the boundary line? This boundary was of course an imaginary line drawn through the water, and it would be for the Court to decide on which side of it the collision took place. Both parties said it took place near the line. The junk had left Macao on the morning of the 8th and with an easterly wind had tacked up to this point by half-past three on the morning of the 9th. She was making for the fishing-grounds somewhere between the Lema Islands and Putoy Island in the Lema Channel. Junks in Hongkong waters had to carry their light in a certain place and in a particular way—namely a white light on a pole at the stern—and that was what plaintiff said was done on board the junk. At the time of the collision three men were on deck—the steersman, a man attending to the main-sheet, and a lookout man. The junk was a two-masted junk and had a crew of 15. Of the three people who were on deck two were left, because the helmsman lost his life as a result of the collision. Out of the 15 of a crew, only seven were saved, the remaining eight being drowned.

His Lordship—What became of the junk?

Mr. Slade said the steamer went right through, and the junk became water-logged but floated and those who could clung on to the wreck and were rescued by another junk. The steamer slowed down and came back but was unable to discover the wreck. Those drowned were one of the part-owners, his three sons and one daughter, the steersman and a sailor. The *Rubi* was a China and Manila S.S. Co. vessel, running between Hongkong and Manila. If it was held by the Court that the collision took place outside the waters of the Colony then the question would arise as to the effect of the Junks Ordinance in this case. He would suggest that it would be perhaps convenient not to discuss that legal question now but to wait until the facts of the case had been decided upon, because if it was decided that the collision happened in the waters of the Colony the time would have been wasted.

His Lordship said he would hear parties on the point of law supposing the collision turned out to have been outside. On the point as to where this occurred, he remarked, the defendants put it very exactly in their preliminary act was that because it was logged?

Mr. Sharp—Yes.

His Lordship—Was it logged at the time?

Mr. Sharp—It was logged at the time before any question arose as to this Ordinance applying. I may say the captain did not know the boundary of the territorial waters when he logged it. In fact very few people do know the boundary.

His Lordship—It appeared in the *Gazette*.

Mr. Sharp—Yes; we have now ascertained it from the official map.

Witnesses were then examined for the plaintiff side.

Mr. Sharp in opening the case for the defendants said he would lead evidence to show that there were no proper lights, regulation or otherwise, exhibited on the junk. The Marine Shipping Ordinance of 1891, section 27, subsection 1, which required a bright white light, visible all round, to be exhibited at a height not less than 10 feet above the hull of the junk,

would apply if the Court held that the collision occurred within territorial waters. Plaintiff's witnesses admitted that there was a light exhibited at the stern not less than 10 feet above the hull, but such light could not be visible all round unless it was above the level of the top of the sails. They believed that the junk people were asleep or below, and had no proper light burning. If the Court found that the junk had no light of any service it would not be necessary to consider whether the collision occurred inside or outside territorial waters. If the junk was outside territorial waters she was statutorily to blame under the Junks Ordinance of last year for not having red and green sidelights. The *Rubi* was on a voyage from Hongkong to Manila. At midnight the second officer went on duty and during the next two or three hours of that watch the captain was partly on the bridge and partly not. At 1.45 a.m. the captain was called, according to instructions, when Waglan Light was sighted. He went on the bridge and changed her course for the light. At 2.55, when the north-east head of Tanka Island was abeam on the port side, he was again called. There was at that time a few junks about and from then the captain remained on the bridge, as his custom was, until he got into Hongkong. At 3.9 the captain changed her course from a course direct to Waglan to a course W. by N., on which the collision occurred. At 3.30 a dim light suddenly appeared a length away ahead of the *Rubi*, slightly on the starboard bow. One or two of the *Rubi* people seemed to have observed the junk simultaneously at this distance, and it appeared that the light was not visible materially before the junk herself. When the junk was seen, the captain immediately put his helm hard aport, gave one short blast on his whistle, and reversed his engines full speed. There appeared to have been a period of about 15 seconds between the first sighting of the junk and the collision. The junk was seen to be going from starboard to port across the *Rubi*'s bows. The measures used by the captain of the *Rubi* were the correct measures to be used. If the junk had done the correct thing and given way a few feet the collision would have been avoided.

Evidence for the defendants was then called, Captain Almond being the first witness examined.

The Court adjourned.

Thursday, 16th July.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GORDMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND CAPTAIN E. BRETHAN, S.S. "TAETAR" (ASSESSOR).

KWOK PO S. S.S. "RUBI."

The taking of evidence having been concluded,

Mr. Sharp addressed the Court. The whole question, he said, turned entirely on the junk's lights. The account of the occurrence given by the witnesses for the *Rubi* was in exact accordance with the account which was written at the time and appeared in the log. The defaults charged against the *Rubi* were all vague, and no specific fault of manoeuvres appeared to be suggested, except that a collision occurred which it was the steamer's duty to avoid. But the evidence, he contended, showed that in the navigation of the *Rubi* all proper care was used, that a good lookout was kept, and that all conceivable measures were taken by her to avoid collision. On the contrary, he said, the junk was shown to have carried no proper lights and to have kept no proper lookout, and she was solely responsible for the collision. According to the bearings taken on the *Rubi*, it was clear that the collision occurred a considerable distance outside the boundary of Hongkong waters.

Mr. Slade in his address to the Court said the evidence given by the *Rubi* witnesses showed inaccuracies as to the bearings and courses. When the light of the junk was seen the attention of the captain and the second officer was distracted by the discovery that Putoy Island was in such close proximity; instead of being distant two miles as had been calculated, it was only some

half-a-mile off. In the rough log written at the time the junk's light was described as a white light; but in the official log afterwards entered up the light was called a dim light. On the tack on which the junk was when first seen—the port tack, heading S.E.—the light she carried at the stern could not have been obscured by any part of the sails or rigging and must necessarily have been clearly visible to anyone on board the *Rubi*.

His Lordship said that the legal question of the validity of the Junks Ordinance would be left over till the Court had decided whether the collision took place outside or inside territorial waters.

Judgment was reserved.

HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The fourteenth ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the Company's offices, No. 4, Queen's Buildings, on Saturday, the 11th inst. Mr. A. G. Wood presided and the others present were:—Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Hon. C. W. Dickson and Mr. G. H. Medhurst (directors), Dr. J. W. Noble, Messrs. R. C. Wilcox, G. Murray Bain, T. H. Reid, J. T. M. Wheeley, J. R. Michael, O. Baptista, R. R. Roberts, and J. W. C. Bonnar (secretary).

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—The report and accounts have been in your possession for some time, so, with your permission, I will take them as read. I am sure that I may congratulate you on the continued good results shown in the accounts now before you. Our net earnings amount to the sum of \$79,167.11 available for distribution, which enables us to pay a dividend of 9 per cent. or 1 per cent. better than we have hitherto achieved, and to write off \$34,741.11, a larger amount than before, for depreciation of plant and furniture, and to carry forward \$3,451.00. In making this provision for depreciation, we are continuing that policy which has been steadily followed to keep us in a position to meet the rapid but continued changes and improvements in electrical machinery and appliances. Our manager, Mr. Wickham, is now on leave, and during his stay in England, and while on his return journey through the United States, he will avail himself of any opportunities to gain information about any improvements which are likely to be of advantage to us in the alterations and extensions we may find it desirable to introduce. The use of the current for light and power continues to show a steady growth, being for this year the equivalent of upwards of 22,000 lamps of 8 candle power against 16,300 last year; and lighting remains the same, and the lifts operated by our service have increased from 9 to 11. The expenditure on working accounts has been in about normal proportion with the increase of the Company's business, though we have been put to some additional outlay for coals of a better, that is, less smoke-making, quality to enable us to comply with the requirements of the Public Health Ordinances. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

There were no questions, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. WILCOX, the report and accounts as presented were adopted and passed.

Mr. REID then moved, and Mr. WHEELLEY seconded, that Messrs. G. H. Medhurst and A. G. Wood be re-elected directors. The motion was carried unanimously.

The only remaining item of business was the election of auditors, and on the motion of Mr. MICHAEL, seconded by Mr. MURRAY BAIN, the Hon. G. Stewart and Mr. C. W. May were re-elected.

Early on Thursday while Mr. Morgan Phillips was riding his mare *Legacy* on the racecourse, he sustained a nasty fall owing to some part of the saddle giving way. Mr. Phillips pluckily held on for some time, but eventually fell near the Grand Stand, and was picked up in an unconscious condition by Mr. Skells and others. Mr. Phillips remained unconscious, we are informed, about ten minutes; but we are glad to learn that his injuries were not of a serious nature.

CHINA LIGHT & POWER CO., LD.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the offices of the general managers, Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co., on the 13th inst., for the purpose of confirming the three resolutions passed at a meeting held on the 27th ult. The Hon. R. Shewan (chairman) presided, and the others present were the Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and Messrs. D. E. Brown, J. H. Lewis (directors), A. G. Gordon, A. Reid, C. A. Tomes, A. Babington, Fung Wa Chun, and R. Henderson (secretary).

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN proposed the confirmation of the first resolution, which was as follows:—"That the capital of the Company be reduced from \$300,000 (divided into 15,000 shares of \$20 each) to \$150,000 (divided into 15,000 shares of \$10 each) and that such reduction be effected by reducing the nominal amount of all the shares in the Company's capital from \$20 to \$10 per share."

Sir PAUL CHATER seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the second resolution, as follows:—"That after such reduction the capital of the Company be increased from \$150,000 (divided into 15,000 shares of \$10 each) to \$300,000 (divided into 30,000 shares of \$10 each) by the creation of 15,000 new shares of \$10 each to be offered and if accepted to be allotted to the present shareholders of the Company in the ratio and proportion of one new share for every old share in the Company held by the respective shareholders thereof."

Mr. BROWN seconded, and the resolution was confirmed, *nem. diss.*

The CHAIRMAN then moved the confirmation of the third and last resolution, the terms of which were:—"That in consideration of the guarantee and undertaking now given by Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. (the general managers of the Company) and testified by their signature hereto (and to be further testified by the execution by the said Shewan, Tomes & Co. of a separate instrument of guarantee to be executed contemporaneously with the debenture trust deed or mortgage hereinafter referred to and to be held by the trustees thereof to be appointed as hereinafter mentioned) that the dividend for the years 1903, 1904 and 1905 in respect of the new shares referred to in the second of the preceding resolutions shall not fall below the rate of 6 per centum per annum in each and every one of the said three years; the said Shewan, Tomes & Co. as such general managers as aforesaid be and they hereby are authorised to issue debentures to the amount of not more than \$200,000 on the property of the Company to be secured by a duly executed mortgage thereof by the Company to such persons as trustees for and on behalf of the debenture holders as the said Shewan, Tomes & Co. may by writing under their hand appoint. The said debentures to be issued in the shape of bonds for \$1,000 or \$100 each at the debenture holders' option respectively, but so that the aggregate amount in value of such debentures taken together shall not exceed the sum of \$200,000. The bonds for and in respect of the said debentures may be issued at a discount not exceeding 2½ per cent. on the face value thereof, but so that the holders respectively of such debentures shall not be entitled to be repaid more than the face value thereof. The said debentures to bear interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum to be computed from the date of actual issue to the respective holders thereof and to be repayable within 5 years from and after the date of such actual issue in manner following, that is to say—No portion of the amount paid in respect of any of such debentures shall be repayable during the first three years following the date of the actual issue thereof, but upon the expiration of such period of three years there shall be repaid in respect of each debenture to each and every holder thereof

(a) "One quarter of the amount paid in respect thereof within six calendar months following the expiration of the said period of three years;

(b) "One quarter of the amount paid in respect thereof within twelve calendar months

following the expiration of the said period of three years;

(c) "One quarter of the amount paid in respect thereof within eighteen calendar months following the expiration of the said period of three years; and

(d) "One quarter of the amount paid in respect thereof within twenty-four calendar months following the expiration of the said period of three years."

Mr. LEWIS seconded, and the resolution was unanimously approved.

This was all the business.

NEW AMOY DOCK CO., LD.

The following is the report of the above Company presented to the shareholders at the eleventh ordinary yearly meeting held at the office of Messrs. Boyd & Co., Amoy, on the 8th July:—

Annexed I beg to submit to shareholders the usual annual statement of accounts of the year ending 31st December, 1902.

The net profit on the year's working is ... \$42,681.94
Add balance carried from last year ... 43,085.13
less bonus ... 43,085.13

which it is proposed to deal with as under:

Commission and fees to general manager, manager and consulting committee ... \$536.39
To reserve (making it stand \$55,500) ... 15,000.00
Dividend of \$2.50 per share ... 15,000.00
Carry forward ... 4,548.74
43,085.13

To enable the dock to do the work which it is now competing for, up-to-date machinery had to be bought, and much heavier stocks of material carried, and in order to give the shareholders a better idea I give below the amounts expended in plant and machinery and additions to stock of materials, etc. since 1896, viz:

Extension of dock artificers' houses, etc. \$11,551.16
Plant and machinery ... 32,155.43
Excess of material carried over that in 1896 ... 33,629.89

GENERAL MANAGER.

Mr. W. S. Orr was given this appointment. CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

In accordance with Section V of the Articles of Association the present members, Messrs. B. Hempel and J. P. Wingate, retire, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. Wilson and J. McArthur, and their re-election is recommended.

W. S. ORR,
General Manager.

TEBRAU PLANTING CO., LD.

The annual meeting of the above Company was held on the 14th inst. in the offices of the general managers (Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son). Mr. Hart Buck (chairman) presided, and there were also present Messrs. H. Humphreys, G. Murray B. in, A. H. Mancell, A. P. Nobbs, J. S. Hagen, Lau Chu Pak, T. M. Wong, and J. L. Cotter (secretary).

The SECRETARY hearing read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—The report and statement of accounts have been in your hands for some time. I will therefore follow the usual custom and take them as read. As the report of our manager, Mr. Larken, is also attached it is not necessary for me to say very much to you. As far as our prospects are concerned, it appears that our only hope is our Para Rubber Plantation, and this certainly looks most promising. The samples of rubber you see on the table, which are from the first tapping of our trees, are pronounced by experts to be of excellent quality and if everything goes well and prices keep up it appears to be only a question of quantity as to whether our plantation is to be a financial success or not. Before moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts I will be pleased to give any shareholder any further information he may desire.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and statement of accounts.

Mr. MURRAY BAIN seconded. He said—As an old shareholder in this Company, it appears to me that there is some hope for getting some return for our money. Mr. Larken has laboured long and faithfully, and we have all been very unfortunate, but now there seems to be a hope; and I sincerely trust it will be realised.

The motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN moved the appointment as auditors of Mr. Eratt in Singapore and Mr. W. Hutton Potts in Hongkong.

Mr. MANCELL seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

This was all the business.

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB
QUARTERLY MEETING.

The following cards were returned:—

MACEWEN CUP.

Mr. W. C. D. Turner	95	—	17	=	78
Mr. E. J. Grist	85	—	4	=	81
Mr. C. W. May	91	—	6	=	85
Mr. H. E. Hunter	100	—	15	=	85
Mr. A. R. Lowe	105	—	18	=	87
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	106	—	18	=	88
Mr. N. J. Stabb	109	—	17	=	92

34 entries.

BOGEY AND MARTIN CUP.

Dr. Drew, R.N.	rec. 11 strokes	2 up
Mr. W. C. D. Turner	13	2 square
Mr. E. J. Grist	3	1 down
Mr. C. W. May	4	3 down
Mr. J. Johnston	4	4 down
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	14	8 down

29 entries.

POOL.

Mr. E. J. Grist	85	—	4	=	81
Dr. J. M. Atkinson	106	—	18	=	89

15 entries.

THE JAPANESE IN MANCHURIA.

In giving an account of his recent journey in Manchuria, the *Jiji's* Peking correspondent strongly attacks those who hold the view that, as Japanese have begun to immigrate into Manchuria since the occupation of that Chinese territory by the Russians and since the latter are at present the only customers of the Japanese merchants there, there is no reason why this country should oppose the Russian occupation of Manchuria. The correspondent says that there are about 5,000 Japanese in Manchuria and that most of them are barbers, photographers or laundry-men by profession, none of them carrying on business on a large scale owing to lack of sufficient capital. The amount of profit earned by our emigrants to Manchuria from their business dealings with the Russians must consequently be very small. Granting, however, continues the correspondent, that they are actually making out of their business a fair sum of profit, this profit is a trifle compared with the importance of the policy hitherto pursued by this Empire in connection with Manchuria. Our policy has been to check Russian aggression on the Korean frontiers. The preservation of the territorial integrity of the peninsular kingdom being a question of life and death for this country, Japan must go, if necessary, so far as to sacrifice the business advantages enjoyed by a small number of her sons abroad, no matter how great these advantages may be, for the purpose of attaining the success of the above-mentioned policy. This is the fundamental ground, upon which the writer urges the Russian evacuation of Manchuria.

Further, the *Jiji's* correspondent is of opinion that the Japanese in Manchuria ought not to confine their business transactions to the Russians only but that they should rather extend the sphere of their business among the natives, whose number is of course larger than that of the Muscovites. He is also sure that by seeking customers among the Chinese our tradesmen will never lose but will on the contrary increase their profits. It is needless to say that the withdrawal of Russians from Manchuria will afford the Japanese a better chance of carrying on direct business with the natives. So, concludes the correspondent, the sooner the Russian evacuation takes place, the better will it be for the interests of the Japanese in Manchuria from a practical point of view.

THE HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber Room, City Hall, on Tuesday, 7th July, 1903, at 3.45 p.m. Present:—Mr. E. A. Hewett (Chairman), Mr. D. R. Law (Vice-Chairman), Hon. C. W. Dickson, Messrs C. Michelson, N. A. Siebs, J. H. Smith, H. E. Tomkins, R. C. Wilcox, A. G. Wood, and A. R. Lowe (Secretary). Absent:—Hon. R. Shewan (*ex officio*).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last monthly meeting held on the 9th ultimo were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBERS OF CHAMBER.

The Secretary reported that Messrs. Goddard and Douglas and Barretto & Co. had been elected to membership since the last meeting subject to the usual confirmation by the members at the next annual general meeting.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

Read letter, dated 25th ultimo, from the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce, asking whether this Chamber would be prepared to join with theirs and that of Tientsin in a Memorial addressed to the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps at Peking urging that the Chinese Government should have brought before it the imperative necessity of a remedy being found for the present unsatisfactory state of its currency and the desirability of its making immediate preparations for the introduction of an uniform national coinage preparatory to any scheme which might eventually be brought forward involving the introduction of a gold standard.

The draft Memorial drawn up by the Shanghai Chamber was discussed and, as its terms practically followed the same lines which this Chamber intimated on the 12th ultimo to the Tientsin Chamber any petition it was thought desirable to present at this early stage of the question should take, the Committee decided to send a reply agreeing to join in the Memorial as drafted.

STEAMSHIP SUBSIDIES.

A copy of the report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to enquire into the subsidies to steamship companies and sailing vessels under Foreign Government and the effect thereby produced on British trade which had been forwarded by the Colonial Secretary for the information of the Chamber, was laid on the table.

OFFICIAL CODE VOCABULARY.

The CHAIRMAN said that with reference to the telegram sent on the 12th of May last a reply had been received informing this Chamber that the British Postmaster-General has agreed to bring the Chamber's protest against the proposed compulsory adoption of the vocabulary before the International Telegraph Conference, and that it was understood the British Postal authorities were also opposing its compulsory use.

PROHIBITION OF COOLIE IMMIGRATION IN SINGAPORE FROM HONGKONG.

The following letter was read:—

Chamber of Commerce,
Singapore, 12th June, 1903.

DEAR SIR,—I have the honour to enclose for the information of your Chamber copies of the following correspondence:—Letter from Colonial Secretary, dated the 11th inst. Reply thereto from the Chamber of Commerce, dated the 12th inst. in connection with the prohibition of immigration of coolies from Hongkong—of which you have doubtless received official notification—in consequence of the number of cases of plague that have recently occurred on board steamers arriving here with coolies from your port.

2. It will be observed that the Austrian steamer *Melpomene*, which arrived here on the 10th instant, reported three deaths from plague during the voyage, and that two cases of plague were found on board upon her arrival. Further that this is the fourth time recently that plague has been found on vessels from Hongkong.

3. While my Committee feel compelled to support the Government of this Colony in any responsible course taken to keep Singapore free from so dire a calamity as would be the introduction of plague among our community, still from the point of view of inter-trade with

Hongkong the course is one which this Chamber undoubtedly feels to be seriously regrettable.

4. The object that my committee has in directing me to communicate with you on this subject, is respectfully to enquire whether some means of an examination of Chinese passengers from Hongkong for Singapore could not be devised and put into practice of so much more stringent a nature as would be likely to reduce to a minimum the chances of plague cases occurring on the voyage or arriving here.

5. The last thing that Singapore would ever desire is to have quarantine or prohibition applying here to steamers arriving from Hongkong and if any action on your side can be devised of reducing the risk of this to a minimum, it would not be less agreeable to us than we feel it would be to our neighbours and friends of Hongkong.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

ALEX. GUNN,
Secretary.

THE SECRETARY

Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

A long discussion followed and it was decided to reply that the benefits to Hongkong from the coolie traffic with Singapore were only derived from the passage money, and they were not of a sufficiently remunerative nature to allow of any expense being incurred at this end. If therefore Chinese coolies were necessary in order to supply the labour-market in Singapore it would doubtless be to the advantage of that Colony to found a segregation camp on one of the numerous islands near there where the coolies could be landed free of any further cost or delay to carrying steamers.

SUGAR CONVENTION.

Further parliamentary papers forwarded by the Colonial Secretary relating to the ratification of the Brussels Sugar Convention were laid on the table.

SORM-WA NINGS.

The following correspondence was read:—

General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 25th June, 1903.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 2nd ultimo intimating that His Excellency the Governor had decided to introduce at the Hongkong Observatory the flag system of weather signals for the information of shipmasters, similar to that in use at Shanghai, and that the present cone system would be continued for the information of the local junk population.

The Committee of the Chamber desire me to convey their thanks to the Government for agreeing to institute this much needed reform in the system of weather signals.

In view, however, of the recommendation made by this Chamber in the report of the Sub-committee appointed to examine communications received from the shipping community on this subject that symbols were more economical and easier to work than flags, were better understood by landsmen, and the adoption of the code from the 37 special distance signals of the Commercial Code made it equally understood by the seafaring community, and that it was pointed out the signals could be increased, if found necessary, by further combinations of the three symbols employed or by similar signals displayed from the yard-arm, it seems to the Committee that under the latter suggestion 117 separate signals could be made, or more than those employed in the recently extended code at Shanghai, a copy of which is enclosed.

In supporting the adoption of a symbol code it may be mentioned that great weight was given to the argument brought forth in your letter of 31st July last, and also adhered to in your further letter of 10th September, 1902, that a flag system is not suited to local conditions on the ground that, in the calm weather usually preceding typhoons, such signals would often not be readily distinguishable; my Committee therefore respectfully suggest that the decision of His Excellency to adopt a flag system in preference to one of symbols may be reconsidered.

With regard to the disinclination shown to alter the present symbol signals because of the local junk population's familiarity with them, I am to point out that this difficulty might easily be overcome by the publication and distribution

amongst the junk and sampan population of a card showing only the few signals in their altered form necessary for local needs with a note that other signals shown are intended only for sea-going craft. This would obviate the confusion in their minds which it is apparently thought might be occasioned on their being supplied with a copy of the whole code.

I am also directed to enquire whether His Excellency has favourably considered the further suggestions put forward by the Chamber for the greater efficiency of the local Observatory by the use as a fishing of additional signal stations direct telephonic communication between the Observatory and the Harbour Office, hourly observations, simultaneous daily meteorographic observations from other observatories, the supply of the latest instruments, and the publishing of any information offered by other observatories, which were contained in the special report enclosed in my letter of 13th January last and which suggestions my Committee trust have met with His Excellency's approval.—I have the, etc.,

A. R. L. WE,
Secretary.

The Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 2nd July, 1903.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo regarding the introduction of the flag system of weather signals, and to inform you that before giving his final decision in the matter His Excellency the Governor had carefully and anxiously considered the correspondence from the beginning, with every desire to meet the wishes of the Chamber of Commerce but with a full sense of his responsibility in ordering a change in a system of signalling which the officials of the local Observatory and the Harbour Master consider practically superior to that adopted at Shanghai. His Excellency's ultimate decision was to add the flag signals as used at Shanghai as independent signals for the shipmasters who seem to desire them, leaving the present cone system intact.

His Excellency's reasons for so doing was that in your letter of May 1st, 1902, you stated that your Committee were anxious for the adoption of the flag signals on the ground that Shanghai possessed a code of signals which was "admittedly the best in the Far East." In your letter of the 23rd August, 1902, you reported that the flag code "has for a number of years been in daily use in Shanghai, where it has given the greatest satisfaction to shipmasters frequenting the port"; you add that "the adoption of a flag signal service, which would be principally for the use of the foreign shipping in harbour, need not necessitate the abolition of the present drum, cone, and ball signals shown by H.M.S. *Tamar* for the benefit of native shipping craft," and further pointed out that the code has been generally adopted by the German, Russian, and Chinese Governments along the coast of China.

His Excellency feels that on consideration your Chamber will acknowledge the inconvenience of unduly multiplying systems of typhoon warning, and therefore in deciding to meet as far as His Excellency considered justifiable the wishes of your Chamber, His Excellency considered it preferable to add a code that has been declared by them to be satisfactory and that has been generally adopted over the coast of China rather than to introduce a new system different from that hitherto adopted in the Far East.

I shall address you further regarding the points raised in the last paragraph of your letter under acknowledgement.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

SECRETARY, Chamber of Commerce.

The CHAIRMAN said that as the Government had definitely decided not to introduce an extended symbol system for weather signals, it would be necessary to let the matter rest until sufficient time had elapsed to enable the new flag system to receive a fair trial.

JUNKS FLYING FOREIGN FLAGS IN ORDER TO
EVADE PAYMENT OF CHING FEI TAX.

The SECRETARY reported that in answer to

the Chamber's letter of enquiry the Government had replied on the 26th ultimo to the effect that the practice of refusing licences to those junka flying foreign flags would be continued. It was, after some discussion, decided to make further representations to the Government on this subject.

HONGKONG.

Lord and Lady Lusk arrived on the 14th inst. on the s.s. *Yatata Maru*, en route for Brisbane.

Police Inspector J. Williamson's appointment as Inspector of Nuisances, Aberdeen, is notified in the *Gazette*.

The death took place at the Peak Hospital on the 9th inst. of Mr. C. F. F. Manicas, acting superintendent of the Joint Telegraph Co.'s, Amoy, at the age of 43.

The body of a Chinese boy who disappeared from his home in Second Street lately was found floating in the harbour on the 12th inst. off the Po On wharf, West Point.

More than twenty doctors resident in this Colony met at 11 a.m. at Government House on Saturday and proceeded afterwards to discuss with H.E. the Governor a theory of plague. Proceedings were informal and private, but we understand that the debate was highly interesting, if inconclusive.

Cheung Lok U, whose partner in an export business in the Colony absconded last year with all the money of the firm, and who in consequence has been depressed ever since, committed suicide on the 12th inst. by jumping from the third-floor verandah of a house at 14, Cornhill Road West. He was picked up alive, but died after admission to the Tung Wa Hospital.

The red cone, pointed down, denoting a typhoon over 300 miles to the south of the Colony, was hoisted about noon on the 11th inst. The native craft in the harbour profited by the warning and made for the shelter of the breakwater at Causeway Bay, where on the 11th afternoon hundreds of sampans and similar boats were assembled. Profiting also by her experience in the typhoon of 1901, when she was capsized, the dredger *Canton River*, at present engaged on the Naval Yard extension works, sought refuge at Stonecutters'. However no typhoon arrived.

A Chinese hawkker who was charged at the Police Court on the 11th inst. with hawking pork at Saiwan-ho without a licence was liberated on a technical point, Saiwan-ho not being specifically named in the Ordinance under which the charge was laid—No. 1 of 1903 (the new Public Health Ordinance)—as a village in which such unlicensed hawking is illegal, although the villages on each side are so named. In dismissing the summons, His Worship (Mr. T. Sercombe Smith) said the defendant apparently knew as much about the law as the police themselves.

The extract of meteorological observations made at Hongkong Observatory during June shows that 25.23 inches of rain fell during the 30 days. For the first ten days the record was only 1/5 inch, all upon the 5th ult. Not until the 17th was a heavy fall reported, 1.265 in. being the figure for that day. Then on the 19th there was 1.53 in. and on the 20th 3.56 in. Very little fell again until the 25th (2.86 in.). On the 27th and 28th the figures were very heavy—6.045 and 8.505 in. respectively. There were 151.6 hours of sunshine during the month, the 25th to the 29th ult. being entirely blank. The first fortnight was favoured with just under 1.7 hours.

The Hongkong Volunteers are well known to be unfortunate in their weather, and the usual luck of the Corps attended the concert arranged for the 11th inst. Just before 7 o'clock the rain, which had been threatening all day, came down in pitchforks and entrenching tools, turning the parade ground into a marsh and destroying all the illuminations. Later on it cleared up and those who had been hardy enough to brave the elements were entertained by Major Chapman and the officers of the Corps in the Drill Hall, where a part of the programme was gone through. The concert proper was adjourned until Thursday night, when it came off duly. A report will appear in our next issue.

The arrival of and assumption of charge of the Peruvian Consulate in Hongkong by Mr. E. Muelle is notified in the *Gazette*.

General Sumner, U.S.A., arrived in Hongkong on the 13th inst. by the *America Maru* sailed by the *Empire of Japan* on the 15th inst.

Information from Canton confirms the report that Mr. Butler, formerly an officer on one of Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s steamers, committed suicide from the *Powan* at the Whampoa tide-pole on the 13th inst. Efforts were made to save him, but they were fruitless. No reason is assigned for the act.

MISCELLANEOUS.

We see from the *P. & T. Times* that "some little indignation has been aroused in official circles in Peking, it is stated, by the discovery that Chinese exhibitors to the St. Louis Exhibition will be beset by a number of restrictions and regulations which will place them on an entirely different footing to the other commercial exhibitors. There is some talk of recalling the commissioners already sent, as it is argued that if Chinese merchants are to be subjected to this treatment, there is little to be gained by the expenditure of money and trouble for which the Government has made preparation." China's attitude seems to us perfectly reasonable. But what is reasonable to others is not necessarily to Pacific coast residents. It would be interesting to hear Mr. John Parrett's opinion on the subject.

Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Minister to Seoul, seems to have been busy lately. On the 3rd inst. he warned the Korean Government that if the Government fail to protect Japanese subjects in Corea and allows bandits to attack them as they did recently at Manpochin he will be compelled to regard the country as being in a state of anarchy and will take measures himself to protect Japanese subjects. It is reported that Mr. Hayashi will take steps at once to ensure the protection of Japanese subjects in Corea. The Japanese Minister is also reported to have addressed a note to the Russian Minister with regard to the seizure of some timber on the Yalu by the Russians. The Russian Secretary apologised for the mishap and added that the Russians in the district would be advised not to repeat the mistake.

Kashgar has been the object of pilgrimage recently to several distinguished visitors, including Professor Martin Hartmann and his wife. The great Orientalist has been taking a course of Turkish as it is spoken in the neighbourhood. A German ex-natal officer in the person of Captain Boder, also passed through, in the course of a Central-Asian journey to China; and two of the ubiquitous Japanese, Messrs. Watanabe and Hori, after spending the winter there, left overland for Shanghai, which they hoped to reach in September. Nor do the scientists neglect the place; Dr. Merzhauser and Herr Kaidal, two German geologists, were bound for the mysterious and fabulous Thian Shan in the pursuit of their fascinating science. A correspondent of the *P. & T. Times* says that Kashgar climate is exceedingly like that of North China, barring dust storms, which though not unknown are less frequent and less trying than they are there.

The King has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr. Edgar William Salis Schwabe to be His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Vladivostok. The *L. & O. Express* remarks:—It is perhaps somewhat curious that just as Vladivostok is losing the importance that formerly attached to it the appointment of a British Vice-Consul appears in the *Gazette*. In former days the only Foreign Consular official allowed at the port was the Japanese commercial agent. He was joined a few years ago by a United States Consular officer, but it was understood that Russia always objected to a British official, and was able with some reason to point to the fact that British commercial interests at the port were small and did not justify the demand for a Consul. Now that an official is appointed it is when, by the construction of the Siberian and Manchurian railways, and the Russian possession of Port Arthur and Talienwan, Vladivostok is left out in both the military and commercial senses.

The *Deli Courant* publishes the following despatch dated July 27th:—Re the arrangement for the steamship line between Amsterdam, Sabang and Batavia via Singapore, in the first place the line Holland-Sabang has been arranged in accordance with the railway packet service. The s.s. *Reynat* will be taken off to Batavia daily line, her place being taken by the s.s. *Diemen*. The former vessel will thus have the honour of taking premier shipments of tobacco to Sabang. The steamer will in future leave via Telok, Seumawew, and Idi, every fortnight in direct communication with the mail boats of the Netherlands Steamship Company. During the tobacco season, however, the *Reynat* will make a trip each week. The new and handsomely-appointed *Willen III* is expected to leave Amsterdam on the 29th August and arrive at Sabang about the end of September. She will be included amongst the ships with this run and be the first homeward-bound steamer.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1902-3 lbs.	1901-2 lbs.
Yokohama	10,411,314	5,939,209
Hiogo	—	—
	10,411,314	5,939,209

SILK.

Canton, 16th July.—Exports.—Silk.—Re-reels.—About 75 bales have been settled on the basis of \$830 average for Nos. 1 and 2, ordinary grading. Filatures.—Have experienced a marked decline on last quotation. Reelers in general however appear in no hurry to sell, and only give way slowly. The lower level has brought forward more buyers during the last few days especially in Fine Sizes, which continue most in favour. A few lots of 9/11 have been done at \$1.07, including Kwai King Lun, Yuen Fung Seng, Kai Lun Cheong, Min Shun Hing. Other sizes we quote sales of Chee Chung Wo 10/12 at \$975, Kwong King Cheong 10/12 at \$960, Yuen Fung Seng 10/12 at \$840. Best 3a Ordre have sold down to \$440 for 11/13, 13/15 and \$325 for 11/13, 13/15, 15/17. Short-reels.—Continue dull but with slightly more enquiry at low rates, which certain reelers have shown some disposition to meet. A few lots are reported settled at \$950 for Kwong Wo Hing, \$930 for King Sing's Go'd Lion, \$900 for Wing Hing Lun, \$902 for Chung Sun Hang. Waste Silk.—We hear of practically no business since our last. Buyers of waste are unable to reach the prices asked, nor do we think our market is likely to give way until stocks are augmented by more ample supplies which at the same time will give an improved quality and a better assortment.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1902-3 bales.	1901-2 bales.
Shanghai	—	—
Yokohama	28,159	27,013
	28,159	27,013

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1902-3 bales.	1901-2 bales.
Shanghai	—	—
Yokohama	48,443	44,896
	48,443	44,896

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 17th July.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG 17th July.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.45 to \$8.60 per Do. " 2, White..... 7.75 to 7.80 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown..... 6.15 to 6.20 " Do. " 2, Brown..... 6.00 to 6.05 " Swatow, No. 1, White..... 5.80 to 5.85 " Do. " 1, White..... 7.60 to 7.65 " Do. " 1, Brown..... 5.90 to 5.95 " Do. " 2, Brown..... 5.80 to 5.85 " Foochow Sugar Candy12.35 to 12.40 " Shekloong "10.60 to 10.65 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 17th July.—The upward tendency continues, market being brisk.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.85 to 2.90
Round, Good quality	5.20 to 5.25
Long	5.25 to 5.35
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	4.00 to 4.05
Garden, " No. 1	4.35 to 4.40
White,	5.40 to 5.45
Fine Cargo	5.50 to 5.55

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Alecinous*, sailed on 7th July. For Marseilles:—125 bales waste silk, 4 cases gum copal, 21 sacks gum copal. For Havre, Hamburg and London:—29 cases camphor. For London:—16 cases chinaware, 18 cases blackwoodware, 18 cases cigars, 14 cases private effects, 50 bales waste silk, 60 bales feathers, 3,013 bales hemp, 15 packages sundries. For Liverpool:—60 bales hemp. For Antwerp:—70 bales split bamboo.

Per steamer *Preussen*, sailed on 9th July. For Colombo:—400 bags flour. For Rangoon:—5 cases raw silk. For Aden:—750 bags sugar. For Naples:—131 bales cocoons. For Genoa:—502 bales raw silk, 100 bales waste silk, 91 cases chinaware, 50 cases essential oil. For Antwerp:—16 packages camphorwood trunks, 4 rolls matting, 4 cases indigo. For Antwerp and Hamburg:—20 cases bristles. For Antwerp and Copenhagen:—6 bales feathers. For Amsterdam:—34 rolls matting. For Amsterdam and Rotterdam:—2 cases blackwoodware. For Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Hamburg:—200 boxes cassia, 75 cases cassia buds. For Rotterdam:—50 cases tea stick, 11 cases chinaware. For Bremen:—8 rolls matting, 4 packages sundries. For Bremen and Hamburg:—185 bales feathers. For Hamburg:—279 bales feathers, 57 rolls matting, 59 cases bristles, 50 bags galangal, 46 boxes tea, 8 cases blackwoodware, 6 cases tea, 5 cases feathers, 4 boxes preserves, 2 cases preserves, 1 case silk, 1 case chinaware, 1 case hardware. For Hamburg and London:—15 cases bristles, 10 cases essential oil. For London:—50 rolls mats.

COTTON.

HONGKONG 4th July.—At slightly advanced rates, moderate business done in good quality. Stock about 1,700 bales.

Bombay	23.50 to 24.50	picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon }	24.50 to 28.00	"
and Dacca		
Shanghai and Japanese	29.00 to 29.50	"
Tungchow and Ningpo	29.00 to 29.50	"

Sale:—500 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 17th July:—The demand from the country having fallen away considerably owing to the gathering of the new rice crop, importers have experienced less inquiry, and, to move off goods as they arrive, have submitted to a decline of 50 cents to a dollar per bale all round. The willingness of sellers to meet buyers, however, has not led to any increase of business, as without an outlet, dealers refrain entirely from committing themselves, and, taking advantage of the sudden and unexpected rise in exchange, are trying their utmost to "bear" the market in anticipation of resumption of demand next month. Holders, although anxious to push business to a reasonable extent, are by no means inclined to concede any further, in face of an advancing market in Bombay, and if this is adhered to during the ensuing fortnight, we expect to see buyers' offers improve and revival of trade follow. Meanwhile the market closes weak and unsteady.

Local Manufacture:—Is in moderate demand at steady prices; business reported during the interval being about 250 bales No. 10s. at \$104 and 10 bales No. 12s. at \$107.

Japanese Yarn:—A good enquiry has continued and settlements of about 1,000 bales, mostly forward delivery, have been effected, say No. 16s. Settsu at \$124, Miike at \$125 and Kanagafuchi at \$126, and Shensui and Settsu No. 20s. at \$130 and \$134 respectively.

Raw Cotton:—There has been a smart advance of \$1 to \$2 per picul in Indian descriptions in sympathy with the fluctuations on the other side. A couple of really superfine parcels of Bengal cotton aggregating 200 bales have fetched as high as \$274. Other sales reported are 232 bales at from \$25 to \$26. Unsold stock 800 bales. Nothing doing in China kinds. Quotations are Indian \$22 to \$28, and China \$26 to \$29.

Exchange on India has continued to advance and closes to-day at Rs. 129 for T/T and Rs. 1294 for Post. On Shanghai 744 and on Yokohama 834.

The undernoted business in imported and local yarns is reported from Shanghai during the week ended 4th instant, viz:—

Indian:—In brisk demand for the Northern Ports at improving prices. Total sales 6,912 bales, comprising 2,300 bales No. 10s., 912 bales No. 12s., 1,532 bales No. 16s., and 2,277 bales No. 20s., prices showing an advance of 1½ in No. 20s., and market closing strong. Estimated stock 34,000.

Japanese:—Sales of about 1,000 bales are reported on the basis of 11s. 90 to 94½ for 16s., and 11s. 94 to 99 for 20s. Market steady.

Local:—Total sales about 3,000 bales, on the basis of 11s. 92½ for 12s., 11s. 88 to 92 for 16s., and 11s. 90 to 92 for 16s. Close strong.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 2nd July.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ... \$ 90.00 to \$128.00	per bale
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ... 114.00 to 120.00	
.. 22 to 24, ... 120.00 to 128.00	
.. 28 to 32, ... 130.00 to 142.00	
.. 38 to 42, ... 155.00 to 170.00	
COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. 2.30 to 2.40	
7 lbs. 2.50 to 2.80	
8.4 lbs. 3.50 to 4.25	
9 to 10 lbs. 4.30 to 5.50	
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.90 to 3.25	
58 to 60 .. 3.50 to 4.00	
64 to 66 .. 4.25 to 5.75	
Fine	6.00 to 8.50
Book-folds	5.00 to 8.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.85 to 1.75	
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 2.30 to 2.80	
7 lbs. (32 ..) .. 2.50 to 3.00	
6 lbs. (32 ..), Mexs. 2.50 to 3.00	
7 lbs. (32 ..) .. 3.10 to 3.30	
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 3.30 to 4.05	
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ .. 1.75 to 7.30	
to 14 lbs.) ..	

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—14 to 150 to 5.50

DAMASKS—

Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.29 to 0.60

Velveteens—18 in. 0.26 to 0.29

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.30 to 5.00

WOLLENS—

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.75 to 2.25

Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 3.00

Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. 7.45 to 9.50

Assorted 7.60 to 9.65 || Camlets—Assorted | 13.50 to 38.00 |
| Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches (Assorted) | 14.50 to 21.00 |
| Orleans Plain | 10.00 to — |

Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 0.65 to 0.90

Fine quality 1.60 to 2.50 |

Shanghai 10th July (from Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report):—Since our last report on 3rd instant, there has been rather less doing, owing partly to the continued drop in Cotton and partly to the anticipated improvement in Tientsin not being as yet realized. The political situation in the North is causing a certain amount of uneasiness in some quarters, but the feeling is not at all general. Dealers who have bought fair quantities during the past two or three weeks now seem inclined to curtail operations and await further developments before committing themselves any more. Importers are, however, keeping very firm and until as they can obtain a reasonable profit on their holdings, appear content to await events, and maintain the idea that the long-looked-for demand must eventually come and with a little patience their prices will be obtainable. Clearances on the whole are fair considering that the Native money market is again becoming rather tight. The above remarks apply to the consuming markets which are all quieter, the only one that has bought anything being Hankow which has dealt in Back Italians to a fair extent. The Liverpool market is easier, the latest quotation for Mid Orleans being 6.30d. with Egyptian 9.62d., but both these rates must decline before business will be possible. The Manchester market is reported dull and we hear that goods have been offered at some reductions on the prices lately asked without, however, leading to business. A telegram from London dated 29th ultimo, states that the Lancashire Cotton Mills are working short time and that thousands of operatives are out of work. The same telegram reports "A Monster Cotton Trust is being organized at New Orleans. The operators own practically the whole of the Spot Cotton in United States. A speedy rise is predicted." but as since that date

Cotton has steadily declined it would seem the attempt had not been very successful. Advices from New York report a quiet market with nothing doing for China. Private mail advices report that the present situation has compelled Mills to curtail their production and they have not much in stock for export, there being a fair demand for the home trade. Immense damage has been done by the flood, last month in South Carolina to the Pacolet and Clifton Mills which will take many months to replace and it is reported that about 1,000 bales of 3.25 yard Drills bought in March and April last have been cancelled. The demand for Indian spinings has been fair during the week, the sales amounting to 4,626 bales.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 17th July, 1903.—No improvement is yet visible in the general condition of our market, and there is again but little business to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been placed at \$680 and a small lot at \$685, and our closing quotation is steady at the latter rate. London has advanced to £63. 15s. Subject to audit, the directors will recommend at the forthcoming meeting, a dividend of £1. 10s. per share, add to reserve fund \$500,000; write off property account \$200,000; and carry forward about \$1,425,000. Nationals are unchanged and without business.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions can be placed at \$500. China Traders have sold and are wanted at \$63. Yangtzes are wanted in small lots at \$135. Cantons are quiet at \$180.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs are neglected at \$330. Chinas have sold at \$85 and can now be placed in small lots at \$56.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been freely enquired for, and a fair amount of business has been booked at \$384 at which rate a few more shares are still procurable. Inlo-Chinas advanced during the earlier part of the week to \$99 and \$99½ with sales to the northern market at these figures, but an easier tone has since set in and we close with sellers at \$98. China and Manilas have dropped to \$21 (old) and \$16 (new) with sales of the old issue and probable further buyers at the rate. Douglases have again been booked at \$104. Star Ferries continue in request at \$27 and \$17 for the old and new issues respectively. Shell Transports have sold and are in further request at £1. 2s 6d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have declined to \$95 s. llers. Luzons are still in request at \$10.

MINING.—Punjoms have been booked at the reduced rate of \$2.30 and a few more shares are probably obtainable at this figure. We have no other changes or business to report under this head.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have firmed up, and after sales at \$215, \$215½ and \$216 are in further demand at the latter rate, with no shares obtainable under \$217. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have sold at \$88 and \$88½ and close firm with buyers at \$88. New Amoy Docks are in some demand at \$40. Farnham, after receding to 11s. 162½ can be placed at 11s. 165.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$160 and close with shares offering at \$161. Kowloon Lands and West Points are unchanged and without business. Humphreys Estates after sales at \$12½ and \$12.15 are now procurable at \$12. Hongkong Hotels are easier with some sellers at \$151. Oriente Hotels can still be placed at \$40.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos are procurable at 11s. 35, and Laou Tung Mows at 11s. 42½. Hongkongs have advanced to \$15 with sales.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have been booked at \$144 and \$244, closing with buyers at \$24. Electrics are steady at \$12.60 and \$7 for the old and new issues respectively, ex the dividend of 9 per cent. for 1902 paid on the 11th instant. Steam Water-boats are in demand at \$14. Ices can be placed at \$247½. B.I.'s Asbestos have been booked at the advanced rate of \$6. China Providents can still be procured at \$9. Watkins are wanted at \$7. Powells have sold and there are further sellers at \$10. Albambra Cigars are quoted at \$250 buyers.

MEMOS.—Canton Land Company, Limited, ordinary yearly meeting to-morrow, 18th instant.

Hongkong Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. Ltd. ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 4th August; transfer books close on the 21st instant. Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, interim dividend of \$6 per share payable on the 28th instant; transfer books close on the 22nd instant. West Point Building Company, Limited, interim dividend of \$1½ per share payable on the 28th instant; transfer books close on the 22nd instant. Hongkong Ice Company, Limited, interim dividend of \$1 per share payable on the 28th instant; transfer books close on the 20th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	(\$683 L'don, £63. 15s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$28
B. Shares	28	\$28
Foun. Shares	21	\$10
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$6, sales
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$104, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	\$61
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.75, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$95, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$5.00	\$250, buyers
Philippine Tobacco Trust, Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$18
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 35, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 39
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 42½, sellers
Soychee	Tls. 600	Tls. 160
Hongkong	\$100	\$15, sales
Dairy Farm	\$0	\$12
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$47½
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$24, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$40, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12.60, ex div., sell
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$7, ex div., buyers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$320
Hongkong Hotel	\$0	\$14½, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$50	\$151, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$25	\$245, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$88, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$145
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$180
China Fire	\$20	\$86, buyers
China Traders	\$25	\$63, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$330, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 230
Straits	\$20	\$1, nominal
Union	\$100	\$500, sellers
Yangtze	\$50	\$135
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$161, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$8, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$52
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, buyers
Manila Invest. Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$15, sales
Mining—		
Charbonnages	£250	\$60, sellers
Jejebu	\$5	\$12, sellers
Lunjom	\$11	\$2.30
Do. Preference	\$1	30 cents
Raubs	\$18.10	\$81, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$63	\$40, buyers
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$10, buyers
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$1, sales & sellers
Robinson Piano Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$21, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$55	\$16, buyers
H. Canton and M.	\$50	\$44, sales
Indo-China S. N.	\$15	\$38½, sales & sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$210	\$98, sellers
Do.	\$1	\$1.2. 6. sales & buyers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$27, buyers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$17, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$100	Tls. 170
United Asbestos	\$5	nominal
Do.	\$4	\$91, buyers
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$155
Watkins Ltd.	\$5	\$23, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$7, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$14½, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 10th July (from Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report). A fairly good business has been done since the Bank holidays last week, but not much variation in rates has taken place. Langkats sustained a fall but at the close the market has strengthened both for cash and forward. BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have been negotiated at local Ex. 73 at \$685 and 682½ closing with sales at the latter rate. MARINE INSURANCE. No business reported. FIRE INSURANCE. No business reported. SHIPPING.—Indo-Chinas—Cash shares have changed hands during the week at 76 and 74½ and closed steady at 75, with buyers for the end of the month at 75½. Forward rates are out of all proportion to the cash prices, and transactions are reported at 74 and 74½ August, September and October, with buyers for December at 75½. The dividend has not yet arrived in Shanghai. Doughases have buyers at \$1½. Tug and Cargo Boats shares are wanted on the basis of Tls. 177½ for the latter. DOCKS AND WHARVES.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co.—Our market has not improved during the week and closed with buyers at \$177½ and sellers at \$175 for July. For September, and October, 180/181½ are reported, and a single transaction for November a 182½. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have buyers at \$215. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves.—There are a fair number of shares offering in the market at Tls. 282½. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves.—A single transaction has been put through during the week at \$87. SUGAR COMPANIES.—Nothing has been done. MINING.—Weihaiwei Gold Mining.—Shares have been dealt in at \$20.21 for fully paid up shares. No other business reported. LANDS.—Shanghai have been placed at Tls. 108 and 110 cash. Hongkong Lands are quoted at \$163 sellers. Humphreys \$12 nominal. INDUSTRIAL.—Laon Kung Mow have been placed at Tls. 40 with buyers at this rate. Gas Shares.—Some transactions have taken place at Tls. 115, but shares are offering. Maatschappij & Co. in Langkat.—The market opened on the 3rd at Tls. 315 for cash, 320 July, 330 October, on the 4th the market strengthened considerably and cash shares were dealt in at 315 17½/20, for September at 330 and October 332 335. On the 6th, however, our market collapsed to 305 cash and forward rates 307½ July and 327½ October. The following day our forward market still further declined to 320 September and October since which as low as 315 October has been done closing with buyers at 317½. The cash rate remains the same, viz.—305 buyers. Green Island Cements have buyers in Hongkong at \$24. STORES & H-TLS.—No business reported. MISCELLANEOUS.—Telephone have been placed at Tls. 70 and 60. LOANS.—The new issue of Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Debenture 6 per cent. have been negotiated at par; no offer below Tls. 101 will procure 6 per cent Municipal Debenture. Waterworks 6 per cent. have also been placed at par.

EXCHANGE.

SATURDAY, 17th July.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1 51½
Bank Bills, on demand	1 51½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1 51½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1 51½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1 51½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1 51½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	217
Credits 4 months' sight	220½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	176
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42½
Credits, 60 days' sight	42½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	129
Bank, on demand	129½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	129
Bank, on demand	129½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	83½
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	24 p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	103½

ON HAIPHONG.—
 Or demand 1½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—
 On demand 1 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand 6½
 SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate \$11.55
 GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 62
 BAR SILVER, per oz. 42½

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 17th July.—Freight is generally continue dull at about previous rates, with the exception of a slightly better demand from Saigon to both Hongkong and Philippines. Saigon to Hongkong, the rate closes strong at 15 cents per picul. To Philippines, 25 cent. An enquiry to Kobe has been met at 30 cents per picul. Newchwang to Canton, the rate is nominally 22 cents per picul, there being no enquiry at the moment. Japan coal freights are slightly weaker the demand for prompt tonnage being very weak: to Hongkong \$1.80 is quoted, to Singapore \$2.10 per ton. The following are the settlements:—

Airlie—British steamer, 1,402 tons, Karatsu to Manila, \$3.50 per ton.
 Crown of Arragon—British steamer, 1,471 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.80 per ton.
 Guthrie—British steamer, 1,491 tons, Hongay to Swatow, \$1.90 per ton.
 Hopsang—British steamer, 1,359 tons, Hongay to Singapore, \$2.25 per ton.
 Loyal—German steamer, 1,184 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.65 per ton.
 Telartos—German steamer, 1,573 tons, Hankow to Swatow, Tls. 11,000 in full.
 Karin—Swedish steamer, 608 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul.
 Nanshan—British steamer, 1,290 tons, two ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.
 Deuteros—German steamer, 1,001 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.
 Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.
 Elise—German steamer, 903 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 28 cents per picul.
 China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, Saigon to Manila, 25 cents per picul.
 Tritos—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents; if two ports 28 cents per picul.
 Frithjof—Norwegian steamer, 801 tons, Saigon to Iloilo, 24 cents; if Manila and Iloilo, 27 cents per picul.
 Taichang—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Cebu, 29 cents per picul.
 Taichong—German steamer, 930 tons, Iloilo to Yokohama, 27 cents per picul.
 Tailee—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.
 Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.
 Victoria—Swedish steamer, 929 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.
 Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.
 A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Saigon to Kobe, 20 cents per picul (35,000 picul's).
 Apurade—German steamer, 696 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$6,000 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP.—Pelex, Nestor, Stentor, Glancus, Moyune, Tamba Maru, Ceylon, Tydeus.
 FOR LONDON.—Ballarat, Benledi, Pelex, Nestor, Stentor, Glancus, Moyune, Tamba Maru, Ceylon, Tydeus.
 FOR LIVERPOOL.—Prometheus, Diomed.
 FOR MARSEILLES.—Pelex, Nestor, Polynesian, Prinse Valdemar, Stentor, Glancus, Moyune, Tamba Maru, Tydeus.
 FOR BREMEN.—Hamburg, Wursburg.
 FOR HAMBURG AND HAMBURG.—Sithonia, Wursburg, Badenia, Konigsberg, Andalusia.
 FOR ODESSA.—H. Lerche.
 FOR TRIESTE.—Trieste.
 FOR NEW YORK.—Arabia, Macduff, Verona, Kennebec, Albenga.
 FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Victoria, Riojun Maru, Ningchow.
 FOR VANCOUVER.—Empress of China, Tartar.
 FOR PORTLAND (Or.).—Indrapura.
 FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Australian, Taiyuan.
 FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—Kumsang.
 FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Kinshiu Maru.
 FOR SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, AND BOMBAY.—Magaron.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

- July—
- ARRIVALS.**
- 12, Balmoral, British str., from Newcastle.
 12, Choyang, British str., from Canton.
 12, Edendale, British str., from Singapore.
 12, Ernest Simons, Fr. str., from Shanghai.
 12, Fausang, British str., from Canton.
 12, Hailong, British str., from Swatow.
 12, Hipsang, British str., from Java.
 12, Kwanglee Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 12, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Canton.
 12, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Anping.
 12, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 13, America Maru, Jap. str., from S. F.isco.
 13, Glengarry, British str., from Shanghai.
 13, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 13, Himalaya, French str., from Marseilles.
 13, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., from Moti.
 13, Kumsang, British str., from Calcutta.
 13, Lena, Norwegian str., from Hankow.
 13, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 13, Machaw, German str., from Bangkok.
 13, Michael Jensen, German str., from Pakhoi.
 13, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
 13, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
 13, Yuenang, British str., from Manila.
 14, Canton, British str., from Clefoo.
 14, Changehow, British str., from Amoy.
 14, Haiching, British str., from Swatow.
 14, Haron, British str., from Moji.
 14, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
 14, Koun Maru, Japanese str., from Kobe.
 14, Loyal, German str., from Swatow.
 14, Pakhoi, British str., from Wuhu.
 14, Prosper, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
 14, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
 14, Trigiao, Austrian str., from Tournon.
 14, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 14, Yarra, French str., from Marseilles.
 14, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., from Japan.
 15, Alesia, German str., from Hamburg.
 15, Awa Maru, Japanese str., from Singapore.
 15, Ayr, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 15, Clara Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 15, Hangaang, British str., from Canton.
 15, Hongwan I, British str., from Singapore.
 15, M. Bacquehem, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 15, Merionethshire, British str., from London.
 15, Prins Valdemar, Dan. str., from Shanghai.
 15, Rosario, British gunboat, from Weihaiwei.
 15, Siam, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Scotsman, British str., from Manila.
 15, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
 15, Wosang, British str., from Canton.
 15, Wuchang, British str., from Iloilo.
 16, Hailong, British str., from Swatow.
 16, Hopsang, British str., from Sourabaya.
 16, Kaifong, British str., from Cebu.
 16, Korea, American str., from S. Francisco.
 16, Lalpogora, British str., from Singapore.
 16, Locsok, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Nurnberg, German str., from Foochow.
 16, Progress, German str., from Tournon.
 16, Riojun Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.
- July—
- DEPARTURES.**
- 11, Bingo Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 11, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
 11, Elba, German str., for Kobe.
 11, Glenesk, British str., for New York.
 11, Glenyle, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 11, Hunao, British str., for Cebu.
 11, Kasuga Maru, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.
 11, Kiukiang, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Luchs, German gunboat, for Hoihow.
 11, Machaon, British str., for Nagasaki.
 11, M. Struve, German str., for Hongay.
 11, Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.
 11, Neil Macleod, British str., for Iloilo.
 11, Rosalia Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
 11, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Canton.
 11, Ulbrand, Norwegian str., for Moji.
 11, Zaffro, British str., for Manila.
 12, Alcides, British ship, for Sourabaya.
 12, Amara, British str., for Singapore.
 12, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
 12, Anping Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 12, Australian, British str., for Moji.
 12, Chiyo Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 12, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
 12, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Dayawongse, German str., for Bangkok.
 13, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 13, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.

- 14, Changehow, British str., for Canton.
 14, Choyang, British str., for Swatow.
 14, Ernest Simons, French str., for Saigon.
 14, Fausang, British str., for Swatow.
 14, Hailong, British str., for Hoihow.
 14, Hipsang, British str., for Swatow.
 14, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 14, Ischia, Italian str., for Bombay.
 14, Kaga Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
 14, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 14, Lena, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 14, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
 14, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 14, Marie Jensen, German str., for Singapore.
 14, Pekin, British str., for London.
 14, Phra Nang, German str., for Bangkok.
 14, Pronto, Norwegian str., for Newchwang.
 14, Shan'ung, German str., for Shanghai.
 14, Tetartos, German str., for Hankow.
 14, Tientsin, British str., for Chinkian.
 14, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
 15, Ellen Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.
 15, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 15, Glengarry, British str., for London.
 15, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 15, Kohsiang, German str., for Bangkok.
 15, Loyd, German str., for Hongay.
 15, Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 15, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 15, Taicheong, German str., for Haiphong.
 15, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 15, Whampoa, British str., for Ningpo.
 16, Espiegle, British gunboat, for Weihaiwei.
 16, Hangaang, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Indravelli, British str., for Portland (Or.).
 16, Marita, French str., for Moulmein.
 16, Michael Jensen, German str., for Hoihow.
 16, Prins Valdemar, Dan. str., for Singapore.
 16, Yuenang, British str., for Manila.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Ernest Simons, for Hongkong, from Shanghai. Mrs. Somerville, Mr. and Mrs. Leonardi Nicolis, Messrs. J. Machado, J. H. MacLarae, Furubutu, Tapello, J. Chisholm, Sarantel, Ferrero, Martin and Christ Michel and Miss J. Setokuchi; for Saigon, from Yokohama, Messrs. Bitt, Jeke and Brandes; Kobe, Messrs. B. Havner and Yuza; for Singapore, from Shanghai, Messrs. R. Chotirmall, A. Abramo and Ohara; for Colombo, Messrs. S. D. Duasht and Taylor; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr. du Ceruz de Nazelle; from Kobe, Mr. Rivoalen; from Shanghai, Mrs. Guillemun, Messrs. R. Kahn, Giffens, James A. Harvie, A. Macdonald Tornaud, Canziede, Pouilly, Morasson, Jerome and Schneider.

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Per Awa Maru, for Japan, Mr. and Mrs. Yezzo, Miss Yezzo, Messrs. Walsh, Kendall, Jackson, S. Debb, Moyeli, Hashida, Yokoyama, K. Kobuta and Comdr. Nomaguchi.

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